

East German army halved by desertion

Soviet troops take over border patrols

By Ian Murray, East Berlin

Mass desertions from the East German army have taken the wake of the opening of the Berlin Wall. The army, which had 170,000 troops, is now down to about 85,000. Many of those who have left have headed for the West where they are selling uniforms and medals in flea markets. West German police fear they may also sell their weapons illicitly to raise quick cash.

Up to 40,000 of those who have left have done so as a result of the cut in compulsory national service from 18 months to a year, but others are simply not turning up for work as devastated morale leaves the army far less battle-ready than any other in East-

Europe. Many of those remaining are refusing to train to fight an enemy they do not believe exists, and Soviet troops have been called in to patrol the German border.

Nato sources in Brussels believe the *Volksarmee* (NVA) is losing credibility as a fighting force. "Soldiers are simply not turning up for work. Some have emigrated to the West. Others have gone elsewhere in the country," an

Leon Brittan 12

official said. "A lot of them feel the Army is useless. That famous East German discipline has gone."

Professional officers are reported to be particularly demoralized. They can see no future in their own army and know it will be virtually impossible to join the West German *Bundeswehr*, which is likely to become the military establishment in a reunified Germany. Under the Honcker regime, officers had to be Communist Party members and so are barred from service under West German regulations.

Accurate figures of the number of deserters are not available, with the Defence Ministry confused as to exactly who is on leave, who is a discharged conscript and who is absent without leave.

Western intelligence reports show that the army is disintegrating daily, with some sources claiming that anything up to a half of its strength six months ago has already gone. Although Western observers doubt it has yet lost that many men, at one barracks at Bad Seledungen half of the 2,000 troops have gone.

This is all putting an extra strain on the 350,000 Soviet troops in East Germany. Last week, the Russians carried out a long planned defensive exercise and had to combine with a makeshift NVA unit because the one originally meant to take part simply

refused to do so. The most obvious sign of the army's inability to do its job is on the border, where for the past few weeks only Soviet units have been seen guarding what is left of the fence dividing the two Germans.

The reduction in numbers of units is not solely due to desertion. With so many skilled people leaving the country for the West, such trained personnel as mechanics, drivers and medical staff have been drafted in to help run transport services, hospitals or ambulances.

Dissatisfaction with army life resulted in a rash of strikes by soldiers in January, when they "downed guns" to demand better pay and conditions. The Defence Minister, Admiral Theodor Hoffmann, responded by cutting military service and introducing measures to soften the army's image.

The need for military reform was also recognized this week by the negotiators who agreed a 10-point plan aimed largely at creating a policy for a new European security system. The negotiators firmly rejected, however, Admiral Hoffmann's idea to form a joint force with a 150,000-strong lightly-armed professional army for both Germans.



Storms batter England home and abroad



Allan Lamb, the England cricketer, inspects a sodden pitch in Jamaica after rain threatened England's chances of beating the West Indies. Report, page 44

Prince breaks holiday to visit stricken town

By Mark Souster and Ronald Faux

The Prince of Wales is to interrupt a skiing holiday in Switzerland today to visit the stricken Welsh town of Towyne where severe flooding has led to the evacuation of more than 2,000 people.

As the devastation spread along the North Wales coast, the European Commission said it will make an emergency donation of £325,000 to help the families of British victims killed or injured by the recent bout of violent weather.

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Wales, has already announced "very substantial" funding for district councils in North Wales.

As a third day of strong winds whipped up seas around Britain's battered coastline, the number of residents evacuated in North Wales rose to more than 2,000. The villages of Penryn and Kinmel Bay were partially evacuated in advance of 10-metre-high spring tides, joining residents of Towyne at five emergency centres in the area.

The London Weather Centre, however, offered a

glimmer of hope for emergency services battling to overcome the effects of the storms. "The worst of the bad weather is over," a spokesman said.

The National Rivers Authority, meanwhile, said the storms this week highlighted the need for a single body to administer and co-ordinate

Sea defences at bay 22
Photograph 22

sea defences. The NRA, which operates the flood defence system in England and Wales, said it will have to spend at least an extra £20 million on sea defences next year as a result of this week's appalling weather.

In Towyne, Colwyn Borough Council and British Rail worked round the clock to fill the 300-metre breach in the sea wall with five tonnes stone blocks from nearby quarries, set in place with quick drying cement.

A five-mile stretch of road between Penryn, from where 40 families were moved yesterday, and Rhyl was under

five feet of water and flood water extended two-and-a-half miles inland.

South Wales was yesterday on full flood alert with warnings of a 50-foot tide in the Bristol Channel — the second highest of the year.

In the South and South-east of England heavy plant machinery was brought in to coastal areas to push back shingle as soon as the mid-night high tide receded.

Sussex and southern Kent coastlines were on flood alert. There was flooding in the Sandbrook area of Hythe and at Sandgate, Kent, where the sea defence wall burst on Monday night, but not on the scale of earlier in the week. Shepway District Council, which covers the area of the Kent coastline most severely affected, yesterday issued 3,000 sandbags to residents most at risk.

In North Devon the high tide brought fresh misery as mountainous seas breached patched-up sea defences, flooding harbour areas and

Continued on page 22, col 1

Trade deficit rise hits Government

By Colin Nartwong and Richard Ford

Britain's monthly visible trade deficit began to widen again in January, dealing another blow to the Government in the run-up to the Budget and a key by-election the following week.

The widening to £1,979 million from a revised £917 million deficit in December at first worried City economists expecting a figure of about £1,200 million.

Official explanations that the figure was a one-off rise, with the long-term trend still down, soothed markets by the end of the day, however.

Treasury officials said £500 million of the deficit was caused by such erratic factors as diamond imports and the Felixstowe dock strike.

The FT-SE100 Index rose 0.6 points to close at 2,255.4 and the pound rose 0.3 points against the trade-weighted index to end the day at 89.9.

Last night Mrs Thatcher said on Yorkshire Television: "Obviously one is disappointed but, at the same time as that one, they have revised the previous one downwards. In other words, the previous

month was better than when it came out.

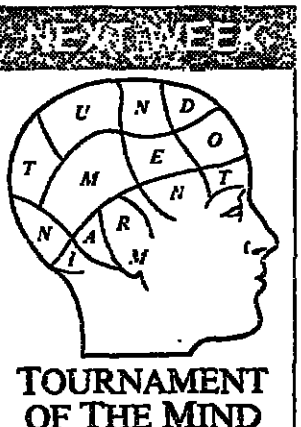
"If you take the two months together and average it, they are about what you might have expected and they do represent a downward trend."

Mr John Bannan, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said the

figure was misleading and warned economists not to talk the UK into recession.

But yesterday's figures were still seen in Westminster as a blow to the Government, already facing deep unpopularity and bracing itself for a struggle to hold the Mid-Staffordshire seat in the March 22 by-election.

The Opposition said the latest figures showed the complacency of ministers who claimed that their economic policy was working. Mr Gordon Brown, the shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said the deficit exploded the Government's "do-nothing complacency".



TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

Starting next week: The Times Tournament of the Mind, offering the chance to win £5,000 and a computer.

The tournament, devised and marked by Mensa, will be played over 20 rounds, with the questions becoming increasingly difficult. Each entrant will receive a special certificate.

As a sample, try this: Which three-letter prefix can be added to the following words to create new ones? BOX BREAKER CAP BOUND FALL. The answer is on page 20

Khrushchev ignored his enemies — and paid the price. Will Mikhail Gorbachev do the same? Oleg Gordievsky considers the president's future on page 11

Marilyn Monroe could soon be making a new film. How? Our Science & Technology section, beginning on page 31 explains

There were no winners of yesterday's Portfolio Platinum prize. Today's chance to win £6,000 is on page 29

Takeover tactic

Schemes to support the share price of companies during takeover bids were regarded as legitimate during the 1980s takeover wave, the Guinness trial was told. Page 4

INDEX	
Home News	2-5
Overseas	6-9
Business	23-30
Sport	38-44
Arts	18-19
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Books	17
Chess	2
Court & Social	14
Crosswords	20, 22
Diary	12
Entertainments	20
Features	11, 12
Health	15
Law Report	35
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Obituary	14
Parliament	10
Science & technology	31-34
Snow Report	42
Special report	36-38
TV & Radio	21
Weather	22

Kohl bows down on Polish border

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

After months of hesitancy and amid a rising chorus of criticism within West Germany and by its neighbours, Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday threw his support behind an explicit recognition of the present East German frontier with Poland.

He told a Cabinet meeting that he had "full understanding" of a proposal that the West German Bundestag and a freely elected East German parliament issue a joint declaration acknowledging the Oder-Neisse border before unification.

Until now he has refused to give a categorical statement renouncing any German claims on territory lost to Poland after the Second World War. He insisted this could only be legally settled by the two states after reunification.

His ambiguity, with a clear

eye on preventing voters from the lost territories defecting to the right-wing Republicans in the coming general election, continued even during his recent talks in Washington. It led to strong public criticism

Allies' wrangle 8
Leading article 13

in the US. On Tuesday Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, came close to an break with his partner, and insisted on a binding unambiguous German statement soon.

Mrs Thatcher has made such a statement a precondition of her acceptance of unification, and strongly supported Poland's call for a clear line from Bonn.

Herr Kohl may have been encouraged by polls showing that support for the Republicans has fallen

Sanderson awarded £30,000

Tessa Sanderson, the 1984 Olympic javelin champion, yesterday won £30,000 in libel damages over an allegation that she stole another woman's husband.

She had been accused by Mrs Jewel Evans, a beautician, in two Sunday newspaper articles of enticing her husband Derrick away.

Mirror Group Newspapers, which faces estimated costs of £200,000, was granted a 14-day stay on award pending a possible appeal.

Miss Sanderson, aged 33, had sued the group and two journalists over stories in the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* last March quoting Mrs Evans' allegations. She insisted her affair with Mr Evans did not begin until after the break-up of his marriage.

£500m boost for the inner-cities

By Peter Davenport

The Prime Minister yesterday marked the second anniversary of the Government's inner-city programme by announcing an extra £500 million of funding, taking spending on regeneration schemes this year to a record £4 billion.

At a presentation in Bradford, video-linked to events in six other inner-city areas, Mrs Thatcher's message was that, although much had been achieved, much more remained to be done.

She said a key element in the success of the Action for Cities campaign so far was the partnership between the public and private sectors.

During a ceremony at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford, Mrs Thatcher said: "The Government can spend billions on the inner cities, prime ministers and members of the Government can make

umpteen speeches in praise of inner cities, and Opposition spokesmen can go on and on and on — to coin a phrase — about the need to do more for them. But the key to success is the drive and enthusiasm that come from teamwork."

The Prime Minister said the £800 million of taxpayers' money that had gone into the Government's 10 urban development corporations had generated £7 billion of private sector investment. She praised the companies involved in inner-city projects.

Mrs Thatcher also announced a further phase in the Government's plan to move thousands of Civil Service jobs in London and the South-East. She said Customs and Excise was to relocate 1,700 jobs to Manchester and Liverpool. Details of the site for the new offices were announced yesterday.

Red October fiction reflects Soviet mutiny facts

From James Bone, New York



A KGB general has given the first official confirmation of a mutiny aboard a Soviet warship that is strikingly similar to Tom Clancy's best-selling novel, *The Hunt for Red October*, soon to be premiered in a film version starring Sean Connery.

Mr Clancy was an insurance agent in Maryland when the book, his first novel, was published in 1984 by the Naval Institute Press, which paid him an advance of \$5,000 for the book.

The tale about a Soviet submarine and its crew that tried to defect to the West was a runaway bestseller, earning him more than \$1 million and an invitation from the then President,

Mr Ronald Reagan. Major-General A. Boriskin of the KGB has now given the first details of a mutiny, widely known in the West, involving a Soviet warship 15 years ago. The incident occurred in the Baltic on November 8-9, 1975, when the deputy commander of the big submarine hunter Storozhevoi, Captain (Third Class) Valent Sablin, took over the ship and declared it "independent".

He told the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy: "I demand that the territory of the warship Storozhevoi be free and independent from government and party organs."

The mutinous crew headed towards Sweden, but was forced to stop by warplanes. "Yes, weapons were used but the bombs were dropped not on

the ship but ahead of it," General Boriskin wrote in *Izvestia*. "There was no damage."

The only casualty was Captain Sablin, who was shot in the leg by the Storozhevoi's commander.

The Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR on July 13, 1976, found Sablin guilty and sentenced him to death.

General Boriskin recounted: "His accomplice, Seaman R. Sheney, was sentenced to eight years in prison." The rebel captain was later shot by firing squad.

A further six officers and 11 warrant officers who helped Captain Sablin were investigated but charges were dropped.

Mr Clancy was not available to comment yesterday.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Ford move to end craftsmen's strike

Ford will today try to end the unofficial strike by a group of craftsmen which has cost more than £250 million in lost production and forced the lay-off of 11,000 workers (Kevin Eason writes). The company will distribute letters to assembly line workers at its big Halewood plant on Merseyside, asking them to return to work on Monday after a seven-week lay off. Similar letters were expected to be sent to transmission plant staff on Friday.

The 550 Halewood craftsmen, who have refused to accept the company's pay deal in defiance of their unions, will meet Mr Jimmy Airlie, secretary of the Ford unions' joint negotiating committee, today.

He will tell them to return to work after Ford promised to examine their grievances over skill demarcation changes contained in the two-year agreement accepted by most of the 32,000 manual workers.

The 8,000 Halewood production workers have lost about £1,400 in pay and Ford believes they are keen to return. A mass meeting will discuss the letters on Saturday.

Lecture death threat

A lecture by Dr Zaki Badawi, principal of the Muslim College, London, and chairman of the Council of Imams and Mosques, on the offence allegedly given by Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* was cancelled last night after a death threat (Mike Horsnell writes).

The threat was made against a member of staff at Bradford and Ilkley Community College, where the lecture was to have been given. Dr Paul Gallagher, principal of the college, said: "Threats of this nature cannot be taken lightly. The safety of our staff and students must be our first priority."

Brown on way out

Mr Ron Brown, the MP for Edinburgh Leith, appeared to be on the road to political oblivion last night after Labour leaders gave the go-ahead to his local party to consider removing him and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, spoke of outrage at his conduct (Philip Webster writes). Mr Brown defiantly declared his intention to fight on and denounced the "shamocracy" of the national executive's decision to allow the Leith party to hold a special meeting.

Duke's speeding fine

The Duke of Westminster, reputedly Britain's wealthiest man, yesterday accepted a magistrates court offer of a week to pay a £120 fine for driving at 106mph. The fifth Duke, who has two previous speeding convictions, was banned from driving for 14 days. Magistrates in Stroud, Gloucestershire, heard that the Duke, aged 38, was exceeding the limit by 36mph on the M5 in his Jaguar XJS sports saloon.

Kasparov defeated

Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, lost to Boris Guelko in their eighth round match at the International Grandmaster Chess Tournament in Linares, southern Spain (Raymond Keene writes). Guelko, playing white, forced Kasparov's resignation on the 54th move after the champion had sacrificed two pawns for little compensation. Nigel Short, Britain's top-ranked grandmaster, lost to Lajos Portisch of Hungary.

Greville Wynne dies

Greville Wynne, the British spy who spent 18 months in Moscow's Lubyanka jail and who was described as Britain's best known secret agent after a BBC television play on his experiences, has died in London after a long illness. He was recruited by British intelligence while a student before the Second World War and played an important role in the 1960s by helping to "run" Colonel Oleg Penkovsky, a highly-placed Soviet defector. *Obituary, page 14*

King appeals to MPs over Wallace inquiry

Mr Tom King has asked the Commons defence committee to delay its investigation into the Colin Wallace affair until the end of the Ministry of Defence's own internal inquiry (Sheila Gunn writes).

The defence secretary's appeal has split the Tory-dominated committee, which launched the inquiry after the ministry's admission of "some maladministration" in the handling of the affair.

It is understood Mr Michael Bates, the chairman, urged

the committee in private session yesterday to be prepared for a slow, long investigation to uncover the truth behind Mr Wallace's allegations of smear tactics in the 1970s.

One committee MP said later: "We are being fobbed off like little boys."

The committee has asked the ministry to supply written evidence on the disinformation campaign intended to denigrate politicians and organizations for propaganda purposes in Northern Ireland.

MPs criticize lack of traffic plan for tunnel

By Michael Dynes
Transport Correspondent

To cater for an expected explosion of traffic when the Channel Tunnel opens in 1993, the Government must abandon its opposition to integrated transport planning, the Commons transport select committee warned yesterday.

In spite of widespread anxiety over increased traffic volumes between Britain and mainland Europe, the Department of Transport had planned virtually no additional expenditure on Channel Tunnel roads, and had no traffic forecasts, the committee said.

"When we asked what additional spending was earmarked for tunnel-related roads, we were told the answer was almost zero. Trunk road schemes were justified by estimates

of traffic growth without the tunnel, and the department had not judged it necessary to expand the programme."

"The department appears not to have made independent traffic forecasts of conditions after the tunnel opens," the committee said. "We find this surprising in view of the existing congestion in the South-east, and the fact that not only the tunnel but also the Single Market could lead to an explosion of traffic between Britain and the rest of the Community."

The committee's report, *Roads For The Future*, said congestion in the South-east had increased considerably in recent years because of heavy traffic growth, and warned of a "further deterioration" impairing "our economic competitiveness" unless this was rectified. The Gov-

ernment must also consider financing the construction of new passenger and freight rail links to serve the tunnel in order to take the pressure off roads, and to avoid the "bleak prospect" of a wholesale increase in congestion in the South-east.

The committee welcomed the Government's recent decision to boost funding for the expanded trunk road network but said this had to be matched with increased investment in local distributor roads to reduce congestion in urban areas.

Emphasizing the link between road and rail usage, the committee said it feared that "approval of large investments will mean approval of large real fare increases, particularly as British Rail and London Regional Transport's property assets diminish", resulting in "higher fares

driving people away from public transport and on to the roads".

More than 40 recommendations were made for improving Britain's transport infrastructure, including improved co-ordination between the Departments of Transport and Environment, more effective traffic forecasting, increased powers for local authorities to enforce parking regulations, and a cut in the time needed to plan and implement new road schemes.

However, the committee expressed considerable scepticism over Government proposals to expand the national road network by recruiting private sector capital, and warned that the introduction of toll roads would be fraught with danger.

It was equally dismissive of road pricing, a system of charging motorists for entering congested city

centres during peak periods, which it described as "merely a way of allowing the better off and those on business expenses to enjoy benefits denied or made more expensive to others".

Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, said the report "makes a powerful case for the strategic approach to transport planning that is sadly lacking from government policy".

Mr Gary Turvey, director general of the Freight Transport Association, welcomed the report, saying the committee had recognized "that it is no good having a superb intercity road network if traffic becomes clogged the moment it reaches urban areas".

Roads For The Future, House of Commons Transport Committee (Stationery Office, £7.40).

Tory MPs to warn Thatcher of havoc caused by poll tax

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs are planning to warn the Prime Minister today of the havoc being caused for the Government by the introduction of the community charge.

A group of senior MPs from the London area have been invited to meet Mrs Margaret Thatcher in one of a series of meetings being organized to allow backbenchers to vent their concern over issues such as the poll tax, interest rates and foreign affairs.

One MP who was expected to attend said yesterday: "It is too late for this year. The budgets are being set. But we need to be assured that Mrs Thatcher is not isolated from parliamentary feeling on this issue. The charge is playing havoc with our party. I just hope she knows it."

The MPs will find Mrs Thatcher unrepentant. In an interview on Yorkshire Television last night, she defended the community charge and said she had no regrets about it.

She said the alternative would have been a complete rating revolution across the country. "Rating was the most bitterly unfair tax, only paid

by about half the people who vote in local elections. It would have been much, much worse had we had a rating revolution."

Mrs Thatcher said the community charge was a much fairer system; she did not do things because they were popular but because they were fair.

The fresh evidence of concern came as Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, unleashed a bitter attack on local authorities for using the introduction of the community charge as a "smokescreen" to impose extra burdens on householders.

As Tory county councils continued to set budgets far above Whitehall spending targets, a clearly angry Mr Patten accused the counties of acting for electoral reasons.

In a letter to his constituency party, Mr Patten referred to Avon's projected increase in income of 20 per cent and said it might not be unconnected with the fact there were no county council elections this year.

It was a "depressingly typical" story. County councils pushed up spending and kept

down rates in election years; and the next year the ratepayer had to pick up the tab.

Mr Patten said that spending increases by councils looked like being so big that they would have caused a 35 per cent rate increase. He spoke of "talk" of a £370 average community charge, almost £100 higher than the Government believed necessary.

He said that even if allowance was made for the arguments being put by councils, nothing could justify such behaviour. "Inflation is not rising by 35 per cent; nor are people's wages. Is it fair that councils should inflict huge extra burdens on people because they think they can use the smokescreen of the introduction of the new system? It is reasonable that councils should seek to raise extra balances to take money from local people's banks and put it in their own?"

Was it right, to quote the Labour-controlled Association of London Authorities, that councils should set the highest possible charges? "I will not hesitate to protect local chargepayers from that sort of behaviour," he said.

Tories resign over charges

By Ray Clancy

The poll tax claimed its first political casualties last night when 18 Conservative councillors resigned the party whip to sit as independents in protest at having to set a charge of £159 above the government recommendation.

As a result the Conservatives lost control of West Oxfordshire district council, which had set the charge at £412. The move is likely to have significant political implications as local authorities throughout the country finalize their poll tax figures.

Elsewhere hundreds of poll tax protesters disrupted council meetings; in Manchester police were called to clear the public gallery.

The Conservative upset in

West Oxfordshire came after some members met at the town hall in Witney. They decided it was unacceptable to be setting such a high poll tax in spite of having kept spending below government guidelines. They were also angry about a proposed 34 per cent council rent rise.

After resigning the party whip, they entered the council chamber for a meeting as independent councillors. Mr David Walker, the former Conservative leader, said: "We have had enough. We find that we have been getting nowhere with the Government over poll tax despite being a frugal authority."

A spokesman for the local Conservative party said: "The

councillors who have resigned are totally wrong and misguided. If they are angry about the poll tax they should fight from within the party."

Manchester City council last night set its poll tax at £425, well below the £733 which had been forecast but still £111 (35 per cent) above the government recommendation.

The meeting was held up for half an hour while police removed 50 noisy protesters from the public gallery.

More than 200 demonstrators lobbied councillors outside Shire Hall in Taunton, Somerset, in protest at a recommended poll tax of £350, almost £100 higher than the Government estimate.

Farm seeks good husbandry



The Cross daughters: (from left) Joanna, Sally, Trudi and Rachel, with their nephew Sam. Yesterday the four were sifting through a shortlist of suitable men to marry.

By Alan Hamilton

A West Country farmer's wife has advertised some of her livestock in the newspaper *Farmer's Weekly*. Which is not in itself unusual, except that it is her four daughters who are on offer.

Mrs Janet Cross, of Mildford, near Bath, took the step after despairing that her children would ever find suitable husbands. Joanna, aged 32, Sally, 31, Trudi, 29 and Rachel, 27, all approve of the scheme. They have been inundated with offers.

Choosing the parallel of Zephobah, the biblical father of five daughters who faced losing their inheritance unless they married, Mrs Cross placed an advertisement which read: "Man-eating daughters of Zephobah seek strong partners for life-entire." The message was not lost on *Farmer's Weekly* readers.

Mrs Cross took the desperate measure after her family congregated at the farm for yet another lonely Christmas. "I am very serious about this. I just want to see them married and happy," she said.

"They are all lovely girls, holding down responsible jobs, and have had many boyfriends. But none has really come up to scratch. I think I am as particular as they are, we all want Mr Right."

Replies have been sifted through, and most have been rejected.

A short list has been handed to Sally, a psychiatric nurse, to have first choice.

When Zephobah died in the wilderness, Jehovah commanded that his daughters marry within their own tribe lest the tribal property be lost to outsiders. No such strictures apply in the case of the Cross tribe.

Mr Jock Cross, the girls' father, is less enamoured than the rest of his tribe at the marriage scheme.

He rather grumpily dismissed the whole business as a load of bull.

The advertisement with its biblical-style plea for help placed by Mrs Cross in a recent edition of *Farmer's Weekly*.

Rail travellers' grim picture

By Michael Dynes
Transport Correspondent

British Rail services, excluding InterCity, have deteriorated markedly over the past four years, according to the latest passenger survey conducted by the Consumer's Association magazine *Which?*

It showed an overwhelming number of passengers and commuters felt trains are "crowded, dirty, and unreliable," and that many other aspects of the service had deteriorated since the last survey in 1986.

Passenger opinions "paint a pretty grim picture - every aspect that we asked about received either significantly worse, or, at best, no better ratings than those from commuters four years ago," the survey said.

Of the 500,000 commuters into London during the morning peak, two in three believe the service has got worse, two in five think it is poor value for money, and over two in five rate the service as fairly or very poor.

The survey revealed that overcrowding "is the single most important thing commuters want to see im-

proved", followed by improved seating, punctuality, and frequency of service.

About 50 per cent of commuters gave their local stations a rating of "poor" as far as car parking, platform seating, covered waiting areas, refreshments, information, loudspeaker announcements, and ticket purchasing arrangements were concerned.

More than four out of five InterCity passengers rated their service as good or fairly good and about nine out of ten were happy with punctuality, duration and the smoothness of the ride.

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Decoy clients reveal cheating estate agents

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Estate agents, including some of the best-known firms, are cheating customers and even breaking the law through sharp practices, *Which?*, the magazine of the Consumers' Association, alleges today.

Its investigation has produced "clear evidence" that some agents are handpicking buyers who do not use their financial services, discouraging second offers on houses to make the most of scarce buyers; keeping prices low, without sellers knowing in order to make more sales; and selling the wrong sort of mortgage or un-

necessary insurance to housebuyers so as to gain more commission.

Which? looked into recent allegations by the Law Society and others that some agents are profiting at customers' expense by dishonest and, in some cases, illegal methods. It recruited eight people selling their houses in the south of England and used actors to play potential buyers, going to nine estate agencies.

After examining the eight cases, *Which?* says: "Clearly there is a need for tighter controls, particularly if our limited investigation is an indication of the standards of practice of estate agents on a national scale."

The Office of Fair Trading is

reviewing estate agency practices and has proposed changes to the law, including banning forced tie-in sales, by which house-hunters buy a property only if they get a mortgage through the estate agent, and a new voluntary code of conduct.

Which? found that two of the eight agencies where it put in two offers on the seller's house managed to convince the seller to accept the lower offers that would have earned the agency more commission through selling an insurance-linked mortgage. One agent lied to a seller and the other failed to report the second offer.

The magazine says that an estate agent must, by law, act in the seller's

best interests, and this includes telling a seller the truth about any offer.

Mr Trevor Kent, president of the National Association of Estate Agents, said if the allegations were true, he had to support the call for further controls on agents' activities, but said it was wrong that the agents had been given no chance to put their side of the story.

Thousands of people have put off going to the dentist because of rising charges, *Which?* says today. A survey found that nearly a third of people now visit the dentist less often than they did five years ago. The cost of treatment was the main reason for this.

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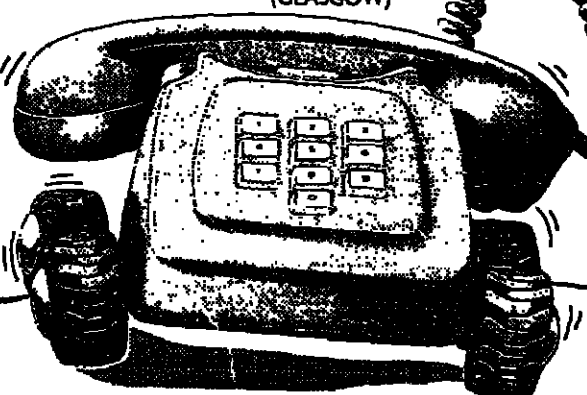
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BAe says it had no Young sweeteners

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

British Aerospace directors yesterday cleared Lord Young of Graffham, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, of offering them special tax favours to close the £150 million Rover sale.

They firmly denied being offered "sweeteners" by the Government and tax inspectors to salvage their purchase of the car group. Questions still remain over whether Lord Young sought to deceive Parliament and the European Commission over the final terms of the deal.

Under questioning from the Commons trade and industry committee yesterday, Mr Bernard Friess, BAE's former finance director, admitted mis-takes in a memorandum to his board members which fuelled the DfT was offering special concessions and "sympathetic" inland revenue treatment.

Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's senior EC commissioner, is finalising his report on the

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'It has been an awful experience, but worth the hell I've been through after feeling cheap and dirty'

Olympic star wins £30,000 damages over wife's claim

By David Sapsed

Miss Tessa Sanderson, winner of Olympic and Commonwealth Games gold medals in the javelin, was awarded £30,000 damages in the High Court in London yesterday over newspaper claims that she stole another woman's husband.

When the jury announced its decision, Miss Sanderson, aged 33, gasped "thank God" and cried with joy. She later said: "It's been worth the hell I've been through. It's been an awful, awful experience."

The damages were awarded against Mirror Group Newspapers and two journalists. Articles in the *Sunday Mirror* and *People* last year carried accusations by Mrs Jewel Evans, a beautician aged 36, alleging that the athlete had lured away her husband, Mr Derrick Evans, aged 37, a physical fitness instructor.

Mr Evans punched the bench with his fist when the finding was returned. He said the outcome was a vindication of Miss Sanderson's decision to sue. "It was nothing to do with the money; we had to do it to clear Tess."

Neither he nor Miss Sanderson would comment on suggestions that they might soon marry.

In addition to the award, Mr Justice Michael Davies made an order against the newspapers of £30,000 costs, £20,000 of which will come from money paid into court by Mirror Group Newspapers in January.

Mr George Carman, QC, for the newspapers, successfully

applied for a 14-day stay pending a decision on an appeal.

After the jury's decision, reached after less than three hours' deliberation, Miss Sanderson hugged and kissed her lawyers and described Mr Richard Hartley, QC, her counsel, as "the greatest lawyer in the world".

She said she did not think her name had suffered in spite of the lurid accusations made during the eight-day trial.

"It was just like the last throw at the Olympics. I had to do it or it would have kept raising its head again and again," she said.

"I won my case and I am very delighted. I am glad the jury recognized the nasty digs. No, there won't be a celebration tonight; this is not about celebrating."

During the trial the athlete



Mrs Evans said husband was lured into an affair.

had told the court she felt "cheap and dirty" when she had read the articles. She insisted her affair with Mr Evans, who is still her lover, did not begin until after the break-up of his stormy marriage.

The newspapers argued the articles did not state baldly that Miss Sanderson had stolen Mrs Evans' husband, but there were sufficient grounds to suspect that what she said might be true.

The *Sunday Mirror* article said Mrs Evans claimed Miss Sanderson "lured her husband into a passionate affair by dangling the promise of fame and fortune".

Miss Sanderson and Mr Evans told the court they first had sexual intercourse in early February 1989, significantly later than the date claimed by the newspapers.

Earlier, the judge had told the jury that, if it found in favour of the athlete, it should "not go mad" about damages but pitch it against the cost of a Chinese meal with friends, a good holiday, a car or even a house, depending on how it saw the severity of the libel.

The jury did not know until afterwards that the newspaper group had paid £20,000 into court.

Had the award been £10,000 less, it would have meant that Miss Sanderson would have had to pay for her defence costs, in spite of winning the case.

The newspapers' costs were estimated at more than £100,000.



Miss Sanderson and Mr Evans after the verdict last night: "It had nothing to do with money. We had to do it to clear Tess."

Mrs Evans refused to comment last night.

The judge had warned the jury yesterday not to "go mad" in awarding any damages to Miss Sanderson and advised: "This is not a football pools case" (Our Legal Correspondent writes).

The judge, who is in charge of the High Court jury list, was trying to give some kind of framework to the jury of five men and seven women in its task of arriving at appropriate libel damages.

It is not the first time Mr Justice Michael Davies has had to steer juries to award

sensible sums.

In Lord Aldington's libel action against Count Nikolai Tolstoy and Mr Nigel Watts, the judge warned the jury not to deal in "Mickey Mouse" figures. The award set a record of £1.5 million.

Pending the coming into force of the Lord Chancellor's reforms which will widen the Court of Appeal's powers to vary libel damages and enable more guidance to be given, Mr Justice Michael Davies has the task of trying to guide juries away from the huge sums widely reported in the few sensational cases.

Referring to the award to Lord Aldington, and that to Times Newspapers in the action between Mr Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, and Mr Peregrine Worsthorne, former editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*, the judge said: "In that very box over the last six months, juries have awarded sums between 60p and £1.5 million."

"This is not a football pools case, not £1.5 million, but that case (Aldington) was as different from this as chalk and cheese, rain from sun. "Equally the 60p case was different, in many ways."

He warned the jury: "You are not dealing with money that grows on trees which you can hand out ad lib." The judge is known to be concerned about the disparity in media coverage between huge libel sums and small ones, which tends in turn to fuel higher and higher damages.

There are large numbers of small awards of between £5,000 and £20,000 where the jury is "on target", because their awards match the sums the defendants pay into court by way of settlement offers.

But they do not attract press coverage.

Jail-swap prisoners escape in seized car

By Quentin Cowdry

Four prisoners described by police as highly dangerous were on the run last night after overpowering warders in a van in Surrey and hijacking a Mercedes sports car to escape.

The escape came when one of nine inmates being taken from Wandsworth Prison, south London, to the Parkhurst maximum security jail on the Isle of Wight, drew a knife and threatened and slightly injured one of the five warders escorting them.

Four of the prisoners then commandeered the two-seat car, at Chertsey, near Hindhead. The other five inmates stayed in the van until police arrived.

The car's owner, a retired teacher, Mr Peter Dakyone, aged 72, of Broadstairs, Kent, was leaving the Pride and Valley public house in Chertsey after asking directions when he saw the prisoners, wearing standard-issue blue trousers and blue-and-white striped shirts, taking the car. He said that the men had thrown baggage out to make space.

Det Supt Len Withall, of Surrey police, urged the public not to approach the missing men, who had all been "connected with violence".

They are: James Ayres, aged 24, serving six years for theft and robbery; Gregory Crabtree, aged 24, serving 10 years for robbery, possessing a firearm and conspiracy to rob; James Moore, 24, jailed for robbery and possessing firearms; and David Wilde, 30, jailed for robbery and firearms offences.

PORTFOLIO

There were no valid claims in yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition. The prize money today has accumulated to £6,000.

Blood test confusion in death of actor's son

Blood samples sent by a pathologist in Japan were probably not from the twin son of Alan Bates, the actor, whose death may have been caused by an asthma attack after an allergic reaction to an anti-cholera injection, an inquest was told yesterday.

Tristan Bates, aged 19, an actor and male model, died in Tokyo on January 13 shortly after the injection for a working trip to Thailand, the inquest at Westminster was told.

Dr Iain West, the pathologist, said a Japanese post-mortem examination showed Bates had a reading of 80 milligrammes of alcohol to 100 millilitres of blood, but his own figures disclosed an amount of 66 milligrammes.

Dr West said the blood samples sent by a pathologist from Japan were probably not the deceased's. He found no injection marks and no evidence of him ever having had an asthmatic attack. He thought the findings related to an acute allergic reaction to the injection and gave the cause of death as acute asthma.

Bates, of St John's Wood, north-west London, had the injection on January 12. "I'm surprised he was tested for a controlled drug. Most medical examiners in the world would," Dr West said.

In an open verdict, Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner, said: "It is unlikely the blood samples from Japan related to Tristan Bates." He said: "What happened out there is something we really do not know."

Tristan's father and twin brother attended the inquest. Mr Bates said later his son was "a wonderful young man".

Police 'knew killer of heiress in 1977'

By Robin Young

Police investigating the murder of Miss Janice Shepherd, the Australian heiress, told her mother and her boy friend that they knew who the killer was in 1977, St Albans Crown Court was told yesterday.

Miss Shepherd disappeared in February 1977 and her body was not found until April. Yesterday Mrs Phyllis Darling, her mother, gave evidence at the trial of Mr David Lashley, who was first arrested in connection with the murder in February 1977 but has only now been brought to trial after allegedly confessing to the crime to fellow prisoners.

Mrs Darling identified linen and jewellery which she had given to her daughter. She wore a simple gold ring which her daughter was wearing when she disappeared. Mrs Darling took a gold chain which she had given to Miss Shepherd from an envelope. On it hung a pendant of Woodstock, the cartoon character, given to Miss Shepherd by Mr Roddy Kinkead-Weekes, her boy friend.

At the end of Mrs Darling's

brief evidence, Mr Justice Allott, the judge, asked: "Why on earth was this lady called?" Mr Michael Kalisher, QC, for the prosecution, said it was at her own request.

Mrs Helen Grindrod, QC, for the defence, asked whether Mrs Darling had been given a pledge by the Det Chief Supt Mooney, the officer in charge of the investigation into her daughter's death, that he would find her killer. Mrs Darling said that she could not recall. Mrs Grindrod said: "Did he tell you he believed he knew who the man was?" Mrs Darling said: "Yes."

Three people who had been to a dance in King's Langley, Hertfordshire, on the night Miss Shepherd disappeared gave evidence of how they followed what may have been her Mini car for about four miles between King's Langley and Hemel Hempstead. Mrs Lynn Pedder and her husband Kenneth had noticed the Mini because its number plate closely resembled Mr Pedder's initials. Miss Shepherd's car registration was KGM 300P.

The case continues today.

Marital rape charge

In a legal test case, a man accused of raping his wife was yesterday committed for trial by Leicester Castle Magistrates' Court (Craig Seton writes). Reporting restrictions were not lifted. Mrs Christina Coles, chairman of the bench, committed the case to Leicester Crown Court.

The man was charged with rape under Section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act, 1956 and with assault and causing actual bodily harm on November 12. Mr John Milmo, QC, appeared for the Crown Prosecution Service. Mr Graham Buchanan, for the defence, did not apply for bail.

The case is expected to test the law in England and Wales on whether a man can be convicted of raping his wife when they are living apart, but there is no separation order. The Law Commission is to review the law on marital rape.

Transplant team 'knew very well kidneys had been sold'

By John Young

A Harley Street physician was closely involved in the sale of kidneys to private patients in London, and the transplant surgeon with whom he worked chose to look the other way, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, for the GMC, told a disciplinary hearing that Dr Raymond Crockett knew very well that Turkish kidney donors were being paid and were not related to the recipients.

The kidney of one of the donors had been matched against 11 potential recipients. There was no way that Mr Ahmet Koc could have been brought to Britain to give it to a relative. Further evidence of payment had been produced in a letter signed by Dr Crockett authorizing payment of £3,500 to Mr Ata Nur Kunter, said to be a kidney broker.

Mr Henderson was giving his closing address to the hearing at which Dr Crockett, Mr Michael Bewick, a trans-

plant surgeon, and Mr Michael Joyce are accused of serious professional misconduct. Dr Crockett has chosen not to give evidence.

Mr Henderson said the charge that Dr Crockett failed to establish whether Mr Koc understood that he was to have his kidney removed might be thought to be the gravest allegation. "If Mr Koc did not know he was going to have a kidney removed, it is surely a tragedy for everyone."

Mr Henderson agreed the wording of an advertisement for donors in the Egyptian newspaper *Al Ahram* included the idea that Dr Crockett had initiated it; but it was inconceivable that his secretary, Mrs Ann Whatley, did not refer to Dr Crockett calls from people offering kidneys. Mr Henderson accused Mrs Whatley of lying to protect Dr Crockett and, in doing so, she had condoned the advertisements. Turning to Mr Joyce, Mr

Henderson said although his brilliant surgery had helped to save many lives, his approach had been unethical in that he had failed to see the donors or recipients as his patients.

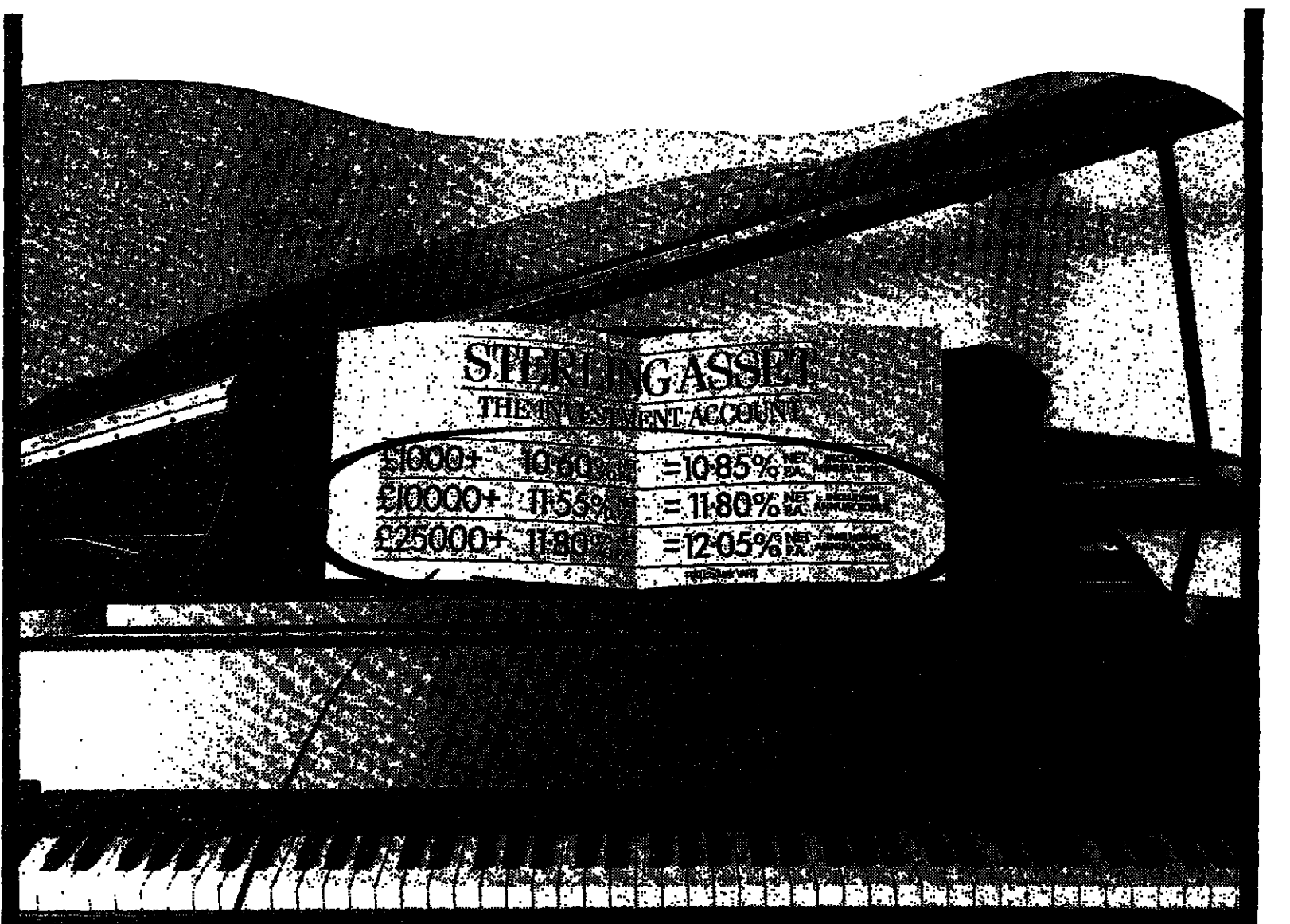
That was important in the case of Mr Bewick, who accepted responsibility for Mr Joyce whom he regarded as his assistant.

Mr Bewick's case was that he was entitled to rely absolutely on a system whereby Dr Crockett would assume responsibility for preparing patients for surgery.

Mr Bewick had categorically denied that he took part in the sale of kidneys. He had said it was anathema to him and that there was no possibility of the donors being paid.

But could he have been so blind? Mr Henderson said: "The truth was staring him in the face. Mr Bewick was not looking."

The inquiry was adjourned until March 26.



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THE GUINNESS CASE

Saunders 'bought shares in support of small brewery'

By Paul Wilkinson and Angela Mackay

Share support operations such as that at the centre of the Guinness affair, are regarded as a legitimate takeover tactic, a jury was told yesterday.

Indeed, shortly before Guinness launched its bid for the Distillers drinks group, it had spent £2.5 million buying shares in the brewery Matthew Brown to help it to fight a takeover bid by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, Mr Olivier Roux, Guinness's former finance director, told Southwark Crown Court.

Only the purchasing of a company's own shares was a grey area and the practice was so widespread as to be of little concern, Mr Roux said under cross-examination by Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, for Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International.

Mr Ronson, Guinness's former chairman and chief executive Ernest Saunders, the stockbroker Anthony Parnes, and the financier Sir Jack Lyons deny 24 counts of the Companies Act arising out of an alleged illegal share support operation during the battle between Guinness and the Argyll supermarket chain to take over Distillers in 1986.

Yesterday, Mr Roux described Guinness's role in a share support operation mounted to help Matthew Brown, a Guinness customer.

He said that Mr Saunders had lunch with a director of J Schroder Wagg, Matthew Brown's merchant bank, in December 1985, and was asked to buy shares in the brewery and not accept the Scottish and Newcastle offer.

Mr Sherrard: "This is known as not assisting the shares?" Mr Roux: "Yes."

Mr Sherrard: "What happened?"

Mr Roux: "Guinness bought the shares and if Guinness lost money the company was told that the loss would be made good by Matthew Brown."

Mr Roux said he contacted Mr Nicholas Jones - the director who had lunch with Mr Saunders - and discussed the matter. Mr Jones said Guinness would not lose any money on the deal and that Matthew Brown's chairman, Mr Patrick Townsend, would confirm that directly.

Later, Mr Roux spoke to the stockbroker Mr Anthony Parnes, who would make the purchases on behalf of Guinness. Mr Parnes pointed out that it was almost certain Guinness would lose money on the deal and emphasized the importance of Guinness being covered for loss.

Mr Roux said that Mr Townsend confirmed personally that Guinness was covered; and Guinness bought about half a million shares in Matthew Brown, spending some £2.5 million.

Mr Roux agreed that the initial approach had come from Schroders, which Mr Sherrard pointed out was the Government's merchant banker in the privatization of the water industry.

In respect of the share support scheme said to have been launched during the Distillers battle, Mr Roux said none of Guinness's advisers had made any mention that the tactics might be illegal.

At no time had any of Guinness's advisers suggested that the directors could face a two-year jail term for breaches of the Companies Act.

"I learned from Mr Parnes that market tactics were an entirely natural and accepted practice. Purchasing shares was a blocking strategy all to unsettle share prices."

Mr Parnes also told him that buying one's own shares was done to maintain price levels, as the purchase of shares in the target company was done to increase the number of acceptances.

Mr Roux said Mr Parnes had told him it was a grey area and companies could be repurchased by the Takeover Panel if they did not disclose matters the panel thought they should. "But it was widespread and therefore of little cause for concern. I understood it to be a common practice in relation to a hostile takeover bid."

"Morgan Grenfell might have to justify it to the Takeover Panel if it was."

THE CHARGES

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, of Putney, south-west London, faces two charges of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; two of authorizing or permitting Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; eight of false accounting; two of theft and one of destroying company documents.

Gerald Ronson, 50, of Hampstead, north-west London, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the fraud prevention Act; one of aiding Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; two of false accounting and one of theft.

Anthony Parnes, 44, of Kensington, west London, faces five charges of false accounting and two of theft.

Sir Jack Lyons, 74, of Kensington, west London, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the fraud prevention Act; one of conspiring to contravene the Companies Act; one of aiding Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; four of false accounting; and one of theft.

discovered and might be criticized for it. They were prepared to take that risk."

Mr Sherrard asked him: "The question of finding supporters was something that was understood from day one."

Mr Roux replied: "From before day one."

Mr Sherrard: "It was known that this was likely to be the shape of the battle."

Mr Roux: "Yes."

Mr Sherrard asked him if it was Guinness's belief that once it entered the fray, Argill would indulge in sabotage tactics. Mr Roux replied: "Yes, Guinness knew it must be prepared for Argill to become aggressive."

Mr Roux agreed that Guinness's advisers were among the best known and respected names in the City.

Its brokers Cazenove were regarded as "the royal firm"; its merchant banker Morgan Grenfell included a former chairman of the Takeover Panel, Mr Graham Walsh,

among its senior executives; and its management consultants Bain had an international reputation. Guinness's auditors, Price Waterhouse, were the biggest in the world and had a "most prestigious reputation"; and the firm's lawyers Freshfields were also solicitors to the Bank of England.

Mr Sherrard asked Mr Roux about advice given by Mr Anthony Salz of Freshfields in which he had considered whether an agreement by the Distillers directors to indemnify Guinness for its expenses in the takeover might be considered a breach of the Companies Act regulations preventing companies giving financial assistance in the purchase of its shares. Mr Salz, who was regarded as the leading mergers and acquisition legal expert in the City, had recommended that there were ways of getting round that within the law.

Mr Roux also agreed that Cazenove had set up a special arrangement to counteract an Argill tactic to reduce the Guinness share price by dumping shares on the market late at night.

"Cazenove had a dealer on the alert ready to buy shares when they were dumped. If this was sabotage out of hours then there was a resistance movement out of hours also."

Mr Sherrard asked Mr Roux if he knew that, in the middle of the takeover battle on March 4, 1986, the Stock Exchange had announced it required companies to have shareholders' approval for the issue of indemnities in the support of a takeover bid.

Mr Roux said yes. Mr Sherrard said that the rule was not made retrospective and noted that it made a sufficient impression for Mr Roux for him to include it in his statement to Department of Trade and Industry inspectors. Mr Sherrard said that he understood from Mr Roux's statement that he regarded the system of finding supporters in a bid as part of "a banker's armoury". Mr Roux agreed.

Mr Sherrard: "Two other merchant banks were mentioned as supporters by Morgan Grenfell."

Mr Roux: "Yes."

Mr Sherrard: "Did you think they did it for nothing?"

Mr Roux: "No. Banks don't do anything for nothing. They have a duty to earn money for their shareholders."

Mr Roux agreed that one of the merchant banks brought in by Morgan Grenfell bought shares in Distillers and sold those shares to Morgan Grenfell at cost price which was above the market price.

Mr Sherrard said that, on the face of it, Guinness was going to bear the cost of that and that he was talking about millions of pounds. Mr Sherrard asked Mr Roux if anyone had ever suggested that the Guinness support operation should be kept secret. Mr Roux said yes, but only in terms of confidentiality surrounding the bid.

Mr Sherrard: "You never thought at any time that the share support scheme in the takeover was illegal?"

Mr Roux: "No, but now I know better."

The case continues today.

Change in law 'needed to protect genetic parents'

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Improved laws are needed to protect the rights of infertile couples who have babies born to surrogate mothers, MPs and embryo research supporters said yesterday.

They were responding to the case, described in a letter to *The Times* yesterday, of the genetic parents of twins carried by a surrogate mother. The parents believe that as the law stands they would have to adopt their own children in order to have legal rights towards them.

The parents' case was explained by Mr Derek Forrest, their solicitor, of Preston, Lancashire. He said because a mother was traditionally thought of as the person from whose womb the baby issued, the genetic mother appeared to have no legal rights towards her own children.

In the case of his clients, who cannot be identified because of a court injunction, the surrogate mother is making no claims on the children but the parents are reluctant to have to go through the process of adoption.

The babies, less than a year old, were conceived by in-vitro fertilization because their genetic mother has ovaries but no womb. The embryos were implanted in a woman, willing to act as a surrogate, who handed the babies over at birth.

References to surrogacy arrangements in the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, which is soon to come before the House of Commons, will now be more carefully considered, two MPs said yesterday.

Mr Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton North-east, and Mr Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarfon, are leading parliamentary supporters of the clause in the Bill which would allow embryo research to continue to help infertile couples.

Mr Thurnham said: "The



Dr Bolton, an embryologist, with William Shaw, a twin conceived by in-vitro fertilization, lobbying at the Commons yesterday.

surrogacy issue is one of the most important in the Bill and this case illustrates the need to tackle it very carefully.

"If a surrogate mother decides to keep the child she has agreed to bear on behalf of another couple the law is on her side. But clearly the law should also take into account the rights of the genetic parents, especially if there is no

dispute between the parties concerned."

Mr Wigley said: "This point will undoubtedly be taken up when the Bill reaches the committee stage."

Dr Virginia Bolton, senior embryologist at King's College Hospital, London, said: "The question of surrogacy has been side-stepped by Parliament so far and needs to be addressed.

At present these arrangements are not enforceable in law."

Mrs Sarah Biggs, vice-chairman of Child, a charity for the infertile which also supports embryo research, said: "We are very concerned about cases like this and the rights of infertile couples who are going to bring up a child, whether it is wholly or partly theirs, genetically. They

should be recognized in law as the natural parents."

Mrs Biggs and Dr Bolton were taking part in a lobby of MPs at Westminster in which the parents of test-tube babies expressed their support for legally controlled embryo research. Dr Bolton is also chairman of Progress, the campaign for research into human reproduction.

Doctors say hospital cuts will leave suicidal patients at risk on streets

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

An internationally renowned psychiatric hospital is proposing significant cuts in services for children and adolescents to save £630,000 next year, it emerged yesterday.

Doctors claimed the cuts at the Maudsley Hospital, south London, would lead to suicidal patients being left on the streets and abused children being sent back to their homes.

The disclosure came as health service managers rebutted claims by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, that service reductions planned in several districts were not due to government underfunding.

The National Association of Health Authorities will launch another survey today to assess shortfalls across the country and the reasons for them.

The moves coincided with a report by the London Health Emergency group, which says an extra £100 million is needed to reopen beds and avoid further cuts in the London area.

The proposed reductions at the Maudsley, which will be put to the special health authority on March 12, include reducing services at the only 24-hour psychiatric emergency clinic in London.

Other services affected include Hilda Lewis House, a national centre for mentally handicapped children, a ward for disturbed adolescents, a ward for psychiatrically ill children and a national demonstration centre for the mental care of the mentally ill.

"We have already lost £1.4 million in the last two years and the extra £600,000 loss is a terminal blow," Dr Martin Deahl, a senior registrar, said. "The Maudsley is now providing second-rate care for its patients."

Mr Eric Byers, district general manager of the Bethlem Royal Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital, said the health authority, which is facing a £150,000 deficit this year, would have to be carried forward to next year.

He rebutted claims by Mr Clarke that this was not due to underfunding. "We have persistently been underfunded for pay awards both to the review body groups and for other health

service workers," he said. Mr Clarke's comments were "unrealistic. We have now run out of all possible economies in non-clinical areas. Regrettably patient services will have to be reduced."

Psychiatric services are also likely to be hit at the Springfield Hospital, Wandsworth, south London, in measures to save £3 million.

The London Health Emergency survey claims that underfunding in London and orders from the Department of Health to clear underlying deficits will result in shortfalls of £100 million next year. Most districts had built up deficits of between £1 million to £2 million, with some much higher. "Balancing the books this year can only be achieved

through major cuts in services," the report says.

The Government had underfunded next year's pay award by £13 million in London and underfunding on inflation, estimated at 7.5 per cent, would create a further £25 million shortfall. Added to district deficits of an estimated £80 million, the London regions would have to find more than £100 million.

Deficits already announced for next year include: West Lambeth health authority, £8.9 million; Riverside district, west London, £6.8 million; Parkside health authority, £4.5 million; Wandsworth, £3 million. Those districts are now discussing swinging cuts across a variety of services, and in some cases compulsory redundancies.

Riverside district is now negotiating with unions over a proposal to withdraw its no compulsory redundancy agreement.

The survey shows that Kingston, which has a £2 million deficit, is planning to close two to three wards; Bromley, £400,000 in debt, proposes cuts in dental and district nursing services and Hounslow, £1.9 million in debt is planning a £1.3 million package of cuts.

Campanians opposed to the Government's health service reforms are lobbying MPs this afternoon. Save the NHS, which includes several London-based groups, will also be gathering signatures for a petition outside the Department of Health this morning.

Surgeon's NHS protest

A surgeon who resigned from a health authority over NHS cuts yesterday boycotted the Prime Minister's visit to open a new block at the hospital where he works (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

Mr Philip Lyndon, a general surgeon at Dewsbury district hospital, West Yorkshire, said he was not prepared to cancel patient sessions to listen to someone who condoned cuts in one of the country's most deprived districts.

"Dewsbury has the worst rate for heart disease and hypertension and the second worst rate for perinatal mortality," said Mr Lyndon. "Yet Mrs Thatcher and her Government are prepared to let these cuts go ahead. I was not prepared to attend a ceremony where I knew I wouldn't be allowed to speak up."

Mr Lyndon, a member of the district management board, said Dewsbury authority, facing a shortfall of over £500,000, had agreed to close 63 beds which would save £500,000 next year.

The community health council claimed cutbacks had been caused by underfunding and said the district had been deliberately trying to run down the beds by discharging people early. The district declined to comment but a spokesman for the region denied that beds were closed for financial reasons.

Victory for Burnet in battle over ITN

By Richard Evans Media Editor

Sir Alastair Burnet has won his battle over the future ownership of ITN, a week after a boardroom disagreement with independent television executives prompted his resignation as a director.

His plan to allow outside investors to buy 51 per cent of the television news organization's shares, and so end ITN's total ownership, has the firm support of the Prime Minister and Mr David Mellor, the Home Office Minister responsible for broadcasting, it was authoritatively confirmed yesterday.

Sir Alastair's resignation and the opposition of ITV companies has stiffened the Government's resolve not to give way over proposals in the Broadcasting Bill that will reduce ITV's share in ITN to 49 per cent from 1993.

ITV executives, who form a majority on the ITN board, last Monday supported a plan submitted to ministers by the Independent Broadcasting Authority suggesting that the proposed Independent Television Commission should decide on ITN's ownership, with two-thirds of shares being held by ITV.

Sir Alastair believes the best way for ITN to develop in the 1990s is to bring in new capital and commercial ideas with a majority shareholding from outside. It is understood that he suggested the different ownership structure to Mrs Thatcher in the first place.

The ITN board insisted that every television network must own its network news and warned that conflicts could arise if outsiders held the majority of shares.

Now ITV executives on the board and Sir David Nicholas, chairman of ITN, face the embarrassing task of untangling themselves from a cause which has no chance of success.

A senior Government source said yesterday: "They got themselves into this hole. Now they will have to dig themselves out of it."

Mr Alastair declined to comment.

The Government is not planning a campaign against the BBC in the run-up to the next general election, senior ministers insisted yesterday.

A flurry of recent attacks against the corporation and the alleged bias of some of its journalists, led by Mr Norman Tebbit, the former Conservative party chairman, had prompted widespread speculation that Downing Street had implicitly sanctioned such a campaign.

However, senior ministers yesterday denied the existence of any action planned against the BBC.

One source said: "Norman Tebbit is fully entitled to say what he says and some people will agree with him, but there are people who disagree. He was certainly not put up to it by anybody."

Soho 'human torch' murderer is jailed for 25 years

By Ruth Gledhill

A hit man for the late President Marcos of the Philippines was jailed for life yesterday for the "human torch" murder of two guards at a Soho amusement arcade in the West End of London.

Mr Justice Rousfield, who recommended that Victor Castigador serve a minimum of 25 years, told him: "I find it almost impossible to understand the workings of a mind as twisted and evil as yours."

The Central Criminal Court heard that Castigador, whose Spanish name means "the enforcer", was the ring leader of a gang that doused the two guards in white spirit and set them alight on April 2 last year.

He boasted to detectives of being a member of an official assassination squad and claimed to have murdered "around" 20 people for the Marcos government. The judge said: "Not to put too fine a point on it, he was a hit man for the late President Marcos." Referring to the Soho murder, he told him: "You were the man who planned this and recruited for it and with evil determination saw it through. "You have forfeited the right to walk free for a very long time. Some might say you have forfeited the right to live at all but unlike you, we do not go to that length in this country." The judge said Castigador had condemned his victims to an agonizing death

without "one shred of pity or mercy."

The court heard that Castigador will be deported to the Philippines as soon as he completes his sentence.

Castigador, aged 35, a broadly-built man about 5ft tall, was the ringleader in "murder most foul", the court was told. He planned revenge because of a grudge he bore over lack of advancement at the Leisure Investments amusement arcade in Wardour Street, where he had worked as a security guard.

He decided in advance that staff members would have to die. Armed with an imitation gun, he led the raid on the arcade and ordered Mr Ambikapalan Appayan, aged 21, Mr Kandiahkanapathy Vinayagamoorthy, aged 28, the guards, Mr Yurev Gomez, aged 25, the duty manager, and Miss Debbie Alvarez, aged 27, the cashier, into a wire cage in the basement strongroom with their hands tied behind their backs.

He sprinkled them with spirit, secured the door, pushed a paper through the wire, stuffed money under the door and set it alight. Then the gang escaped with £9,000 in takings.

Despite suffering dreadful burns Mr Gomez and Miss Alvarez survived by breathing air from a keyhole and under a door. They were in court to see the five



Victor Castigador, the ring leader of "murder most foul", and (top pair) Calvin Nelson and Paul Clinton, convicted of murder and attempted murder; (above) Karen Dunn and Alison Woodside, guilty of robbery.

sentenced. Mr Gomez told the court: "There was a ball of fire. Everything went up. My skin was on fire. I could feel myself disintegrate." He now wears a black glove over his left hand, while Miss

Alvarez is having her nose rebuilt by surgeons at the Queen Mary's Hospital burns unit at Roehampton. Castigador, of Gillingham Street, Bow, east London, had worked as a diver in

the Philippines before being recruited at the age of 21 into "the Philippines constabulary", a quasi-military organization combining military and police duties.

In the Philippines, Castigador

met an Englishwoman, Mrs Jacqueline Haddon, who had moved there with her husband, a diver. He told her he was "a sort of policeman" and befriended her after her marriage broke up. The couple began an affair.

Mrs Haddon returned to England in 1984, setting up home at Middleton-on-Sea, near Bognor, West Sussex. In 1985 Castigador followed her, to get married and obtain UK citizenship. But after moving in he began beating her up and ill-treating their two children. The couple are now divorced. He moved to London and went to work at the arcade.

Castigador had admitted murder, attempted murder and robbery.

Two youths with him on the raid, Calvin Nelson, aged 20, and Paul Clinton, aged 18, both of Burwell Walk, Bow, were convicted of murder and attempted murder. Nelson was ordered to be detained for life in a young offenders' institution. Clinton was sentenced to detention during Her Majesty's pleasure.

Karen Dunn, aged 18, of North-croft Road, east London, and Alison Woodside, aged 21, of Severn Drive, Upminster, Essex, who had denied all charges, were cleared of murder and attempted murder but found guilty of robbery. Dunn was given three years' youth custody, Woodside three and a half years in jail.

Missing 'Angel of Death'

DNA test on bones may resolve truth about Nazi doctor

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

British scientists are to examine the remains of the man said to be Dr Josef Mengele, the Nazi mass murderer, in an attempt to resolve once and for all whether they are those of the barbarous concentration camp doctor.

Professor Alec Jeffreys, of Leicester University, is to test bones, which have been buried in Embu cemetery, São Paulo, Brazil, using DNA fingerprinting, a technique that can match the genetic code of a father with his child.

The scientist, who pioneered DNA fingerprinting, admits that the age of the bones, thought to have been buried in 1979, will stretch the technology to its limits.

However, he believes enough genetic material has survived to attempt to prove whether tissue from the bones and from Mengele's first wife match that of his lawyer son, Rolf.

The tests may help to solve the 40-year-old mystery of the fate of the "Angel of Death" — the man responsible for some of the worst atrocities of the Second World War.

In 1944, after the Allied invasion of Normandy, Mengele escaped to South America from the concentration camp at Auschwitz, where he was responsible for the torture and murder of more than 400,000 Jews, many of them children.

Mengele managed to dodge his pursuers until 1985 when Brazilian police, acting on a

tip off from West Germany, traced him to two Austrian immigrants, Wolfram and Liselotte Bossert, who admitted hiding him.

They showed Brazilian police the grave of a man called Wolfgang Gerhard, which, they claimed, was the alias Mengele had used. The Bosserts claimed he died in a swimming accident in 1979.

In spite of extensive tests on the corpse, including X-ray matches of the skull with the Nazi doctor's dental records, the Israeli Government and the West German Senior Public Prosecutor, Hans-Eberhard Klein, refused to accept the death verdict.

Mr Klein has claimed that the Brazilian scientists, who examined bones, skin and hair of the deceased, established that the blood groups did not match. Yesterday Mr Simon

Wiesenthal, the Nazi hunter, aged 81, said from his office in Vienna, that he would await the DNA tests with great interest.

After first accepting Mengele's death, Mr Wiesenthal claims new evidence has made him believe the Embu corpse is a fake. His case rests on the bizarre approach by Mengele's stepson, Karl-Heinz Mengele, and his nephew, Hans Sedlmaier, to the former Auschwitz physician, Dr Theo Munch, in 1982.

One of the questions they are said to have asked of Munch was for which of his crimes would Mengele be prosecuted if he turned himself in, despite having apparently died three years earlier.

A book by Mr Ben Abraham, a Brazilian journalist, has raised other unresolved questions. A dentist, for example, is said to have treated Mengele two months after his "official" death.

Professor Jeffreys, who has been called in by the West German Government, would not say when the tests might be completed. If they prove negative then one of the world's greatest manhunters will have to be resumed.

About a hundred twins, victims of Mengele's brutal medical experiments and among the 180 infants found alive by the Allies at Auschwitz, still survive. If Mengele were still alive today he would be aged 79.

Professor Jeffreys: To use DNA test on bones.

or insurance. Strong intellectually, and a first-class man manager, you will have a sound basic knowledge of legal, financial and computer systems.

Mr Peter Adderley, managing director of Hoggett Bowers, the recruitment agency that placed the advertisement in *The Times*, said chambers were becoming so sophisticated, that like "any other service industry they need to be run by professional managers".

It was necessary to pay such a salary if chambers were to attract the top-class management material they needed.

The forthcoming report on the strategy of the Bar is expected to contain proposals for improving the organization of chambers.

The earnings of barristers' clerks are a secret. But as many are still on an element of commission, earnings fluctuate with those of their barristers. A few clerks in top chambers would earn more than £50,000. Many earn less.

● A second big City firm of solicitors has set up in East Berlin. Baker and Mackenzie announced yesterday it was opening offices in both East and West Berlin.

From Cholmeley, another London firm with European links, announced earlier this week that it has been granted a licence to open an East Berlin office.

Barristers' chambers

'Practice managers' to replace clerks

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A set of barristers' chambers in the Temple is advertising for a "senior practice manager" at an annual salary of £50,000 to take over the job which traditionally was filled by the barrister's clerk.

The "newly created" post is said to be within "one of the most prestigious barristers' chambers", where the successful applicant would take over all responsibility for the clerking and administration of 26 barristers.

Instead of the old-style position of clerk, often filled through a network of personal contacts, chambers are going outside for qualified professional administrators and are becoming more demanding in the range of skills they seek.

Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, the Bar chairman, said yesterday: "The clerking system needs to be restructured to provide arrangements tailored to the 1990s. Many chambers are adopting new structures and, in particular, separating the function of practice manager and administrator."

The new post of practice manager is likely to be increasingly adopted as chambers re-organize themselves along modern business lines.

The post being advertised seeks applications from individuals working either in the legal field or "as a senior administrator in the professions, the City, commerce

Call to ban coursing

Conservative and Labour MPs yesterday united to launch a cross-party parliamentary campaign to get hare coursing banned. They pledged to press the Government to allow time for a debate and free vote.

At the same time the League Against Cruel Sports published the results of an opinion poll of MPs which showed that 217 of 255 MPs — 85 per cent — were opposed to the sport in which pairs of greyhounds pursue hares. The sport was supported by only eight Tory MPs.

Fraud charge

Malik Larbe, aged 18, a trainee baker of Wolverhampton, appeared in court yesterday accused of a £1 million water shares fraud. He was remanded on bail until April 11.

Pay boost

The Royal Mail is to give more than 5,500 postal workers pay supplements of £10 a week as part of a campaign to keep staff. The £25 million scheme will cover areas mainly outside the South-east.

Canal clean-up

An 18th-century canal basin at Chester which has been hidden for decades has been revealed during a clean-up operation along the Shropshire Union Canal.

Cartoon show

Russian cartoons tracing glasnost and perestroika are to go on show in England for the first time. The cartoons from the magazine *Krokodil* can be seen at the University of Kent, Canterbury, from March 13 to April 11.

Libel damages

The television presenter Robert Kilroy-Silk won "substantial" libel damages against *UK Press Gazette* in the High Court yesterday over allegations that his newspaper column had to be "ghosted".

Prison escape

Police were yesterday searching for Simon Cribb, aged 26, of Birmingham, who escaped from Sudbury Open Prison, Derbyshire, within an hour of arriving.

Struck off

Graeme Holland, aged 37, an optician of Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, who sexually assaulted a boy aged 15 in spite of being treated with a powerful drug to reduce his sex drive, has been struck off the register by the General Optical Council.

Back to school

After two years of negotiations the first group of 20 senior Russian businessmen will begin a three-week management course at Manchester Business School next week.

The art and science of putting bricks together



Emma Dunstone, aged 10, of Harrow, Middlesex, kneeling before a LEGO man in obeisance to brick-fixing ingenuity at the Science Museum in London yesterday. The hostile cat (right) is also built from the Danish company's plastic bricks, which form the focus of "The Art and Science of LEGO" exhibition opening today. Other items on show include a LEGO organ that plays music, a working replica of a large mill engine and a 14ft crane built over 12 weeks.

Japanese museum spends £3m on Rodin casting

A Japanese museum is spending an estimated £3 million on a replica of Rodin's bronze sculpture, "The Gates of Hell". The price compares with the auction record for the artist of £521,000.

The sculpture, commissioned by the city museum of Shizuoka, south-west of Mount Fuji, has been authorized by the Rodin Museum in Paris. It will be cast in pieces by the museum's foundry, La Fonderie de

Doubertin, and then flown to Japan, where it will become the focal point of the city's museum of modern art, which is to be opened in 1993.

"We are allowed by French law to make 12 in any casting of bronzes," M. Jacques Vilain, the Rodin Museum's chief curator, said. "With this one, there will be six, including one in Tokyo and one at Stanford in California."

Rodin worked on "The Gates of Hell" throughout his

SALE ROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market
Correspondent

life, incorporating many figures which have become famous in their own right.

The American abstract artist Sam Francis commanded the two top lots at Sotheby's contemporary art sale in New York, with Japanese dealers as

the buyers. One paid \$385,000 (£227,541), or double estimate for a colourful 1974 painting of a chain of spattered paint, while another spent £195,035 on "EIV", a grid from similar effects.

A giant, jokey replica of a typewriter, eraser by Claes Oldenburg tripled its estimate, selling for £182,033. The sale totalled £9,288,000. With 10 per cent unsold it was in line with expectations.

However, Sotheby's mis-

calculated badly on the estimates for two minor Old Master paintings in London yesterday.

"A Prospect of the Bay of Naples", by Antonio Joli, sold for £46,200 (estimate £6,000 to £8,000) to Chaucer Fine Art of London, while a panorama of military conflicts between Venetian and Turkish forces in Greece, attributed to Quattrocento, fetched £82,500 (estimate £7,000) to the dealers Carlton Hobbs.

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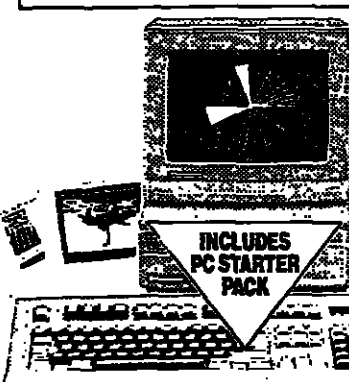
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السنة 1390 هـ

Sandinistas declare unilateral ceasefire in war with Contras

From Charles Bremner, Managua

Nicaragua's Sandinista Government yesterday unilaterally ordered an immediate ceasefire in the war against the Contras, while Señora Violeta Chamorro, the country's President-elect, tried in her turn to persuade the rebels to lay down their arms.

President Ortega has made it a condition for the orderly transfer of power to Señora Chamorro's American-backed National Opposition Union (UNO) that the Contras should stop fighting.

On the ceasefire, a statement issued by Señora Ortega's office said: "The President of the Republic has decided to order from today a unilateral halt to offensive military operations with the aim that the counter-revolutionary forces demobilize immediately."

The re-establishment of a unilateral ceasefire — the previous truce was cancelled by Señora Ortega on November 1 — meets a demand by the Bush Administration which on Tuesday said that a ceasefire was a first step to dismantling of the Contras.

Earlier yesterday Señora Ortega promised to "defend" Nicaragua's armed forces, which, he said, now owed first loyalty to the Sandinistas, and to work to prevent UNO, which is made up of businessmen and tiny political parties, from dismantling the reforms imposed on the country during 10 years of revolution.

These remarks provoked some dismay among diplomats and foreign businessmen, including Mr Jimmy Carter, the former US President, who have been trying to mediate as smoothly as possible a handover from the Sandinistas to the coalition.

The Government also asked on the US to stop supporting the rebels, who have waged an eight-year war against it, and demanded that the Honduran Government immediately dismantle rebel bases on its territory.

In her broadcast call to the Contras to end the war, Señora Chamorro said: "The causes of the civil war in Nicaragua have disappeared. There is no reason for more war. Therefore, those who took up arms must now put

down their guns and return peacefully to Nicaragua to work for the reconstruction of our fatherland."

The rebels, who number some 10,000, must respect the terms of the Central American peace accord, she said. This requires the immediate dissolution of the Contras after free elections in Nicaragua. US "humanitarian" aid to the Contras ends this week, but the White House said money in "the pipeline" would continue to flow for some time.

The Contras, some 3,000 of whom are still fighting inside Nicaragua, have said they will wait before the formal hand-

Rebels stay on

Tegucigalpa (AP) — The Nicaraguan Contras are refusing to disband immediately, saying they will wait until the newly elected Government takes office. President Callejas of Honduras has said the rebels must leave his country as soon as possible. But Mr Israel Galeano, the senior leader among the estimated 10,000 rebels in camps in Honduras, said they did not trust the Sandinistas, and would stay on for the time being.

over of power on April 25 before taking a decision on disbanding.

Señor Israel Galeano, the new young leader of the rebels, said from Honduras: "We are waiting to see if the second step is positive — the transition to a new government."

On Tuesday the White House shifted its position on the issue, at first urging the Contras to call off their campaign, then saying it was a matter for the rebels themselves to decide.

As a force created largely by the CIA and financed by the Americans for eight years, the Contras have come to represent for the Sandinistas all that is worst in US policy towards their country. Between 30,000 and 40,000 Nicaraguans have been killed in the fighting.

Several figures from the Contra political leadership are expected to hold leading posts

in the new administration. Among them are Señor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, the President-elect's son, and Señor Alfredo Cest, one of the most able and ambitious of her entourage.

On Tuesday Señor Ortega told about 10,000 supporters that the Sandinista Front "demands the immediate demobilization ... of the counter-revolution so that there can be a peaceful and orderly transition of government."

"We were born down below, and we are used to fighting from below," he said, promising his uncompromising opposition to Señora Chamorro's coalition, adding: "With the Nicaraguan people, the Sandinista Front will continue to govern from below."

He predicted that the Sandinistas soon would return to office and promised to oppose any sacking of state workers or the privatization of the state-owned banking system and government-controlled foreign trade.

Many diplomats here believe the Sandinistas will try to wield continuing power through their control of the armed forces and Interior Ministry police and security troops, all of whom owe their first allegiance to the Sandinistas.

Certainly, with their control of the trade unions and their members in virtually all senior posts in the civil service, the Sandinistas could wreak havoc on the efforts of the new administration.

● Delay alleged: Vice-President-elect Virgilio Godoy yesterday accused electoral officials of trying to rob UNO of votes to reduce the coalition's power in the National Assembly (AFP reports).

He accused the Supreme Electoral Council of delaying release of the final 20 per cent of results so that it could narrow the difference between votes for UNO and votes for the Sandinistas.

Regional officials of the electoral council were altering electoral records to annul the UNO votes, Señor Godoy told journalists.

Drought-hit Eritreans wait for British aid



Villagers waiting for their monthly ration of grain at the Faith Mission Church, supported by the British relief and development agency, Tear Fund, at the Eritrean town of Nefasit, Ethiopia, now facing

drought as bad as during the devastating famine in 1984-1985, said yesterday that it would oppose aid being taken via Sudan to several million drought victims in rebel-held areas of Eritrea and neigh-

bouring Tigray provinces. Mr Yilma Kassaye, the head of Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, said the Government was planning to ship food aid instead to the port of Asab, further south on

the Red Sea coast, and fly or take it by road to Eritrea, Tigray, Wollo and Gondar provinces. The use of Asab has become necessary because the Eritrean People's Liberation Front captured Masawa.

the Red Sea coast, and fly or take it by road to Eritrea, Tigray, Wollo and Gondar provinces. The use of Asab has become necessary because the Eritrean People's Liberation Front captured Masawa.

Lusaka meeting calls for sanctions to go on

From Gavin Bell, Lusaka

Commonwealth leaders conferring with Mr Nelson Mandela in Zambia have insisted that sanctions be maintained against South Africa until apartheid is effectively buried.

They said further steps were required before sanctions were lifted. Hostility towards Britain's stand on easing sanctions was apparent at a press conference held after the discussions between four African Commonwealth presidents and senior ministers from Canada and Malaysia.

President Kaunda of Zambia said: "We are all agreed that sanctions must go on. We

hope there will be no dissenting voices. Our appeal is that all of us should follow our own instructions to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in this regard."

President Kaunda said there should be no question of withdrawing sanctions before the Secretary-General reported back to the General Assembly on July 30.

Mr Shridath Ramphal, outgoing Commonwealth Secretary-General, said Pretoria would have to abandon its concept of "group rights", accept the principle of universal suffrage and repeal basic apartheid legislation. "What the Commonwealth has said is

that Pretoria should be brought to the negotiating table, and kept there until fundamental political change has been secured."

"There are several touchstones, but clearly change is not irreversible so long as Pretoria is talking about group rights as part of a solution."

Mr Ramphal said another requirement would be the repeal of the Population Registration Act, under which all people are classified according to race.

Mr Mandela declined to express an opinion on Mrs Thatcher's policies. "What we have discussed about Mrs Thatcher cannot properly be

dealt with through the mass media. It is a matter to be dealt with directly with Mrs Thatcher herself."

A communiqué released after a summit meeting of African "frontline" states held in Lusaka earlier yesterday called for intensified sanctions, and said the heads of state "regretted the United Kingdom's intention to unilaterally lift sanctions on individual investments and tourist traffic to South Africa."

The arrival of Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, halfway prompted a question to Mr Mandela as to whether the cordial relations between

them might alarm the South African Jewish community.

"If the truth alienates the powerful Jewish community in South Africa, that is too bad," Mr Mandela said. "I sincerely believe that there are many similarities between our struggle and that of the Palestine Liberation Organization. We live under a unique form of colonialism in South Africa, as well as in Israel."

During the conference, Dr Kaunda elevated Mr Mandela to the rank of uncrowned king with an effusive tribute: "We are merely your generals in the field. We have blind faith in you, all of us are waiting for your orders."

Shamir faces party revolt over talks

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday faced a growing revolt in his Likud Party as many of those who had previously supported him began to side with right-wing figures adamantly opposed to US-sponsored proposals for peace talks with the Palestinians.

Of the 41 Likud members of the Knesset, 23 have signed a letter calling on Mr Shamir to see them before the inner Cabinet.

Jerusalem (AFP) — A British tourist was stabbed and seriously wounded yesterday in the West Bank town of Hebron, an Israeli military source said. The area is in the grip of a general strike to protest at the decision to prolong the closure of Palestinian universities. The elderly tourist, who was not named, was stabbed in the back and abdomen by unknown assailants.

Some of the Likud rebels threatened Mr Shamir with court action if he did not agree to meet them, and Mr Ariel Sharon, the flamboyant former general who resigned from the Cabinet recently to lead the anti-Shamir campaign, said he would convene the Likud central committee (of which he is chairman) with or without Mr Shamir's consent.

Commentators saw this as a clear sign of rebellion.

Sources in the Cabinet said that if Mr Shamir gave in to his Likud critics and rejected the US proposals on the composition of a Palestinian delegation, Labour would carry out its threat to withdraw from the Government and instead form a coalition with minority parties.

If Mr Shamir accepted the proposals, however, the Likud revolt would bring him down, with Mr Sharon challenging him for the leadership. The consensus here is that Mr Shamir's renowned ability to get out of even the most impossible situations is facing its severest test since the Likud-Labour coalition was formed in December, 1988.

At issue is the American proposal that the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel should include at least one Palestinian deported from the occupied territories — provided that he has not subsequently engaged in terrorist activities — and at least one resident of the occupied West Bank who also has an address in east Jerusalem. The Palestinian team would be announced by Egypt, which has consulted the Palestine Liberation Organization.

● Murder confirmed: The Israeli Army confirmed reports of the murder of an Arab, aged 42, an alleged "collaborator", by a mob in the West Bank village of Beit Furik.

Vote-counting was slow and chaotic in the densely-populated state of Bihar, where at least 80 people died on polling day in some of the worst electoral violence since in-

Indian state elections Gandhi party reels from attack

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

Hindu fundamentalists surged ahead as results from Indian state elections poured in yesterday, spelling severe new trouble for Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his battered Congress (I) party.

The results reinforced northern India's growing disenchantment with the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — an old, small-time party that has been born anew as traditional political alignments crumble.

The BJP already holds the survival of the Delhi Government in its hands because of its powerful position in Parliament. Now it also boasts formidable strength in state political machinery, raising grave questions about the prospect for moderate, non-secular politics.

The party seized control of the huge central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh in a landslide. It performed well in the big western state of Rajasthan, although it was not clear whether any single party would get an absolute majority. Counting will take place today in Maharashtra, an economically pivotal state with Bombay as its capital — and there, too, all signs pointed to a surge of fundamentalism.

Vote-counting was slow and chaotic in the densely-populated state of Bihar, where at least 80 people died on polling day in some of the worst electoral violence since in-

dependence. Early returns suggested that the BJP was performing well there, too.

In large measure elections in Bihar have become a farce, run, essentially, by thugs who march unhindered into polling stations and intimidate voters, cast bogus votes or simply walk off with ballot boxes. Re-polling was ordered in several places.

Janata Dal, the party of Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister, was struggling to hold its own against the BJP tide as eight states and one union territory went to the polls, most of them in the north and the west.

Mr Singh desperately needed to achieve a reasonable performance to reinforce his authority over the central government, which his party heads with parliamentary sup-

port from the BJP and the communists. The party established early leads in Gujarat and Orissa — hardly a performance that will instil confidence in the fragile, minority government, which is increasingly dominated and overshadowed by the BJP.

Hindu fundamentalism has arrived. The BJP is a well-structured, united and organized party that embraces moderate Hindus as well as hardline fundamentalists whose extremism threatens to add a chilling dimension to mainstream politics.

The Congress (I) party is now in crisis. It was routed in northern India in the November general election, reducing it to a party of the south, where it has not traditionally been strong. The state election results are another severe

humiliation for the party that has been the towering force in national and state politics since independence.

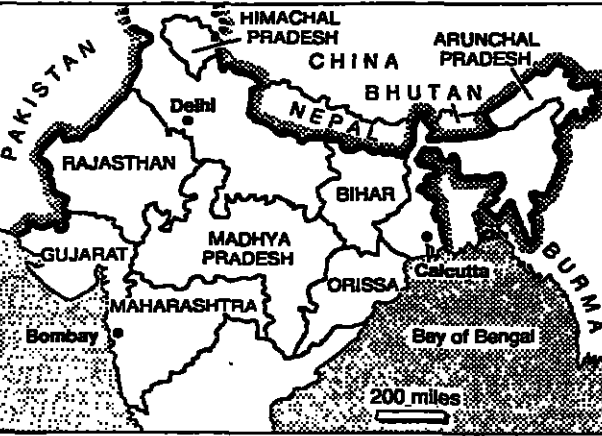
There are serious doubts about Mr Gandhi's chances of survival as influential members of Congress (I) cast about for new and more promising political opportunities. Politics in India has nothing to do with ideology or party loyalty; the name of the game is opportunism, and new alignments are always possible. There is a real danger that the party will split.

The Janata Dal leadership has made no secret of its hope of forming a centrist alliance with disenchanted Congress (I) party members, although defections by MPs are controlled by law. Mr Singh will certainly be uncomfortable with an even stronger BJP breathing down his neck.

Sikh shot: Police officers have shot dead a prominent Sikh separatist leader accused of dozens of murders in the troubled northern Indian state of Punjab (AFP reports from Delhi).

Devi Singh of the Sikh fundamentalist Bhindrawale Tiger Force of Khalistan (BTFK) died late on Tuesday when police stormed a stronghold in Amritsar's Khayala village.

Violence linked to the Sikh separatist movement has left more than 200 people dead this year in Punjab.



High flyers urge tough Big Apple to try tender touch

From James Bone, New York

A new non-profit organization in New York has embarked on a task that makes teaching ballet to baboons look simple.

Calling themselves New York Pride, a group of high-powered executives plans to school New Yorkers — renowned for their talent for abuse — in civility.

An advertising campaign featuring the spectrum of New York scowls, from the taxi driver's frown to the grimace of the claustrophobic subway commuter, will exhort the stressed city dweller to "ease up".

Television spots are accompanied by a hymn to civic pride, "Try a Little Tenderness". Newspaper advertisements implore: "Now that Bucharest, Budapest, Berlin and Prague are acting more civil, let's work on New York."

Mr Herbert Rickman, president of the new group, said: "There is no

reason for us to accept the breakdown in this city."

"When you look at exit surveys and people are asked, 'Why don't you want to come back?' one of the reasons is the rudeness and the mean-spiritedness," he said.

This being New York, however, the campaign is not without irony.

Mr Rickman, who was an aide to Mr Ed Koch, the city's former "Mayor Mouth", is himself known for a typically New York response to questioning in the celebrated Bess Myerson divorce case in 1988.

Under cross-examination, he shouted "disgusting lie", prompting the judge to tell him: "Don't be a baby. Stop it."

Many of those involved in the \$250,000 (£159,000) campaign have, however, been on the receiving end of New York's legendary incivility.

The celebrities and wheeler-dealers, who assembled for the launch of

New York Pride in the Rainbow Room atop the Rockefeller Centre in central Manhattan, swapped New York horror stories, recounting how

● If we are kinder and more civil to each other in the street, it carries over into the bedroom ●

their teenage daughters were jostled in the subway or how they were cursed by irate taxi drivers.

Mr Ron Buckhardt, who helped prepare the advertisements, said he was mugged at gun-point as he left a Manhattan restaurant recently.

There were words of encouragement, however, from Dr Ruth Westheimer, television's sex guru, who said: "If we are kinder and

more civil in the street, it carries over into the bedroom."

One theory prevalent in the metropolis is that New Yorkers have been getting increasingly polite. Not as a result of goodwill, heaven forbid, but rather because of fear.

Growing danger on the city's mean streets has made vocal city dwellers reluctant to speak up in case they land themselves in greater trouble.

A poll of subway riders last April found that 48 per cent of New Yorkers simply stay at home at night to avoid trouble. When they do run into problems, New Yorkers are now advised simply to give in.

Mr Richard Learner, a student, recently lamented in *The New York Times* editorial pages that a mugging was now more like a simple business transaction. After recounting how he was mugged in the subway, he wrote: "What disturbs

me is that I'm not more offended. It seems so acceptable. I wasn't seriously hurt and I'm out only by \$18. There's a risk to living in this city, a price, like rent."

New Yorkers often joke that being mugged by a crazed homeless crackhead is the city's equivalent of taxation.

That is likely to remain the image of New York for some time to come, however much advertising men and dignitaries try to change it.

Milos Forman, the film director, recounted how he had escorted his old friend, President Havel, the Czech playwright turned politician, for a night on the town last week.

He told Mr Havel's Secret Service guards that they wanted to see the night-life of Greenwich Village.

"We don't recommend you go downtown," the agent said. "Why?"

The President could get into the cross-fire there."

WORLD ROUNDUP

Opposition strike grips Bangladesh

Dhaka — Six Bangladesh cities were paralysed yesterday by a general strike called by the largest opposition party (Ahmed Fazl writes). At least 65 people were injured during clashes between police and pickets in Dhaka's Tejgaon suburb. Witnesses said strikers stoned government buses and threw home-made bombs. Police sources said 23 people were arrested for picketing. Paramilitary forces patrolled the deserted streets after transport stopped, shops shut and banks and factories closed.

The strike was called by the Awami League and several student groups to protest over the killing of a pro-league student leader on Sunday at Dhaka University. Sheikh Hasina Wazed, president of the Awami League, has accused government loyalists and the rival opposition group, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, of the murder.

Hanoi asks for time

Vietnam has said it needs more time to consider British proposals on mandatory repatriation of boat people in Hong Kong (Andrew McEwen writes). When Mr Francis Maude, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, held talks in Hanoi last week, he reached agreement to increase the number of voluntary flights, but failed to persuade Vietnam to allow Britain and Hong Kong to send others back against their will. However, the Foreign Office said it was hoped to reach agreement with Vietnam on "alternatives to voluntary repatriation" by the end of the month. This has not happened. Diplomats from the British embassy in Hanoi have held a further meeting with Vietnamese officials since Mr Maude's departure, but made little progress.

Peking press protest

Peking — Foreign journalists in Peking protested to China's Foreign Ministry yesterday of harassment by the secret police (Catherine Sampson writes). A letter from the Foreign Correspondents' Club said journalists were followed in the streets of Peking and their Chinese contacts interrogated. Surveillance had become pronounced in the past two weeks. Journalists complained of "interference" by government agencies and departments. Correspondents here live in compounds and believe their telephones and apartments are bugged. Chinese contacts are subject to harassment from employers. Vague restrictions apply under which journalists may not "endanger China's national security, unity or community and public interests" or "fabricate rumours".

200 arrested in Nepal

Kathmandu (AFP) — Police yesterday arrested more than 200 students and fired tear gas to disperse about 500 protesters in Lalitpur, 10 miles south of Kathmandu, a student source said. Hundreds of riot police were deployed in the tourist town to try to prevent the students holding a public meeting to protest against Nepal's non-party political system. The students marched from nearby Shivalpi and were heading for the centre of Lalitpur when they were stopped by the baton-wielding police. Witnesses said two students carrying banned party banners were badly beaten by police.

Falkland flight delay

Mount Pleasant, Falkland Islands — As an example of rapid deployment to the South Atlantic — which British troops in time of crisis would be expected to reach in 18 hours — the journey by Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, was not a conspicuous success (Michael Evans writes). He arrived at Mount Pleasant airport on the Falkland Islands yesterday at the end of a 36-hour journey which included two visits to Ascension Island, one of them unscheduled. Mr King's first experience of the "air bridge" between RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire and Mount Pleasant was disrupted by high wind on the ground. Just two hours from its destination his TriStar turned round and headed back to Ascension which it had left five hours earlier.

Groupe Bul

How the allies wrangled over the German split

By Michael Dockrill

The reluctance of Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, to discuss the future of the German-Polish frontiers is not without precedent — the Americans and British were reluctant to accept the transfer of the Oder-Neisse frontier to Poland in 1945 but were eventually forced to yield to the accomplished fact, according to the latest volume of *Documents on British Policy Overseas*, published today.

The victorious allies — the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain — had no plans in 1945 to divide conquered Germany into two countries. At the Potsdam Conference in the summer, the three powers agreed on the creation of an Allied Control Council in Berlin of the four Commanders-in-Chief of the occupying forces (France was given a zone of occupation in May) who were to act jointly "in matters affecting Germany as a whole".

The division of the country into four zones was based on military considerations and was never intended to be permanent. Germany, although it was to be disarmed and demilitarized, was to be treated by the victors as an economic unit. In their separate zones, the allies

were to encourage the formation of non-Nazi political parties who would be allowed to contest elections at the local and regional level as an initial step towards the eventual creation of a democratic Germany. The British feared that "to turn Germans into democrats is not going to be an easy task". In any case, it was rendered almost impossible by the chaos which prevailed in Germany after

● To turn Germans into democrats is not going to be an easy task. ●

the war, with shattered towns and cities, widespread homelessness, hordes of refugees and displaced persons, an economy which had completely collapsed, and with the prospect of severe malnutrition and starvation during the coming winter.

One Red Army officer said: "Those Germans in the Soviet zone who did not die of cold next winter would die of starvation next spring, so why worry?" It was not a solution which appealed to the British: as Sir William Strang, the

political adviser to the British Commander-in-Chief, Field-Marshal Montgomery, put it in August: "By assuming supreme authority in Germany we have undertaken certain responsibilities in the face of the world, and in the exercise of those responsibilities we cannot escape from our own traditions, national character and ways of life." Neither Britain nor the US had envisaged that Germany would lose substantial territories after its defeat, but the Soviet Union insisted that Germany should transfer all its former territory east of the Oder-Neisse line to Poland and the Soviet Union. This area contained 25 per cent of its agriculture.

Nor had it been intended that the Soviet Union should ransack its eastern zone and cart off what industrial equipment it could lay hands on. The result was that Germany's post-war condition was even more parlous than had been anticipated: no food for the densely populated Ruhr would be available from crippled East Germany. British officials warned London of the likely consequences: "A pauperized Germany will be a source not only of economic but of political instability" while Britain and the US would find themselves paying for reparations to the

Soviet Union by being forced to make up the ensuing deficit in food and other consumer goods. The Foreign Office concluded in September that "the Germans are now paying in the most dreadful way for their misdeeds over the past 10 years and more. It is very doubtful if any remedy is possible".

Despite British efforts to make the four-power control machinery in Berlin work, they found the Russians extremely trying. The chief impediment to a future reunified Germany in 1945 was not, however, the Soviet Union, but France. The French demanded the surrender of the Rhineland from Germany and its permanent occupation by allied troops and the internationalization of the Ruhr. Moreover, Paris rejected allied plans to set up centralized German administrative departments in Berlin.

Montgomery came to the conclusion that four-power control of Germany had become unworkable. He informed the British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, on October 3 that the Americans "had now tabled a motion that when unanimous agreement in the Council was not possible, each zone could act as it thought best. This was the first rift." He asked whether "Britain really wanted a unified Germany" — not, however,

because of the danger to European security that this might pose but because "if Germany is reunified, the British Zone would have to supply the desert in the Russian Zone".

His preferred solution, probably a result of his frustration with the endless arguments in the Control Council, was for the French, Belgians and Dutch to advance their frontiers to the Rhine and

● If Germany is treated as one whole it will solve many other problems ●

for the internationalization of the Ruhr, which would enable Britain to withdraw its occupation forces from Germany.

A fortnight later, Montgomery changed his mind — the Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, reported that the Field-Marshal had told him that "if Germany is treated as one whole... it will solve many other problems... unification will open up that part of Europe which is now being closed to the allies and he believes that it would make the political situation easier". However,

Oliver Harvey of the Foreign Office wondered whether this solution was any better than Montgomery's first one — Harvey doubted that the creation of central administrative organs would enable the West to penetrate the Soviet Union, while "it is equally certain that the Soviet Government will use this opportunity to penetrate ours and fairly successfully".

Many of the suspicions that were voiced in France and elsewhere about the dangers of a reunified Germany have recently re-surfaced in Western Europe. Technically, the West retains the right to deal with the question of a reunified Germany but in practice there seems little it can do about it. In 1945, Britain was still a great power and could exert considerable influence. By 1990, that influence has almost disappeared.

Documents on British Policy Overseas: Series I, Volume 12, Germany and Western Europe 11 August-31 December 1945, edited by M. E. Pelly and H. J. Yasamee, assisted by G. Bennett (Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1990) 55

● Michael Dockrill is senior lecturer in war studies at King's College, London. His publications include *The Cold War 1945-1963* (Macmillan 1988) and *British Defence since 1945* (Blackwell, 1989).

Lithuanians hasten election amid fear of ban on independence

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

Lithuanian nationalists are to rush through the second round of last Sunday's Republican parliamentary elections, spurred on by fears that Mr Gorbachov, when confirmed as executive Soviet president, plans to use his tough new powers to halt their momentum towards independence.

Although its candidates swept the board in the seats reserved so far, the Sajudis national movement cannot yet convene the necessary two-thirds quorum to instal the new Supreme Soviet. There was no clear result in 41 of the 151 seats and 20 of these will vote again on Sunday, a week earlier than scheduled.

After Tuesday night's vote in the Supreme Soviet in Moscow, Mr Gorbachov looks certain to be confirmed as president by the entire Congress of Peoples Deputies on March 12. He will have sweeping powers of control, including the ability to declare a state of emergency.

Sajudis leaders are now worried that Mr Gorbachov will be able to apply a personal veto if he so chooses, which, if necessary, he could back up

with force. Deputies from Lithuania and the other Baltic republics refused to take part in the debate over the presidency or to vote. Latvia and Estonia, after their elections later this month, are also expected to move towards independence, with the republic of Soviet Georgia a fourth likely contender.

Mr Algis Cekulonis, a Sajudis deputy, said yesterday that the new Lithuanian parliament would meet in Vilnius, the capital, a few days after Sunday's second round of voting. The remaining deputies could take their seats after March 10.

All 15 Soviet republics are holding parliamentary and local government elections under Mr Gorbachov's new democratic programme, whereby a real selection of candidates can be nominated, not simply suitable Communist Party officials.

But of the six elections held so far only Lithuania has yet published its results. There's been virtually no word from the Central Asian republics of Turkmenistan, Kirgizia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. In the latter nearly two dozen

people were killed the week before the polls in clashes with the police.

No formal results have been announced yet in the sixth, Moldavia, but the Popular Front spokesman, Mr Gyorgy Ghimpu, said their candidates had won 55 per cent of the votes cast. However, with no clear results in 237 of the 380 seats, there will have to be extensive re-voting. This is expected to take place on March 10.

● MOSCOW: Sergei Grigoryants, an independent Soviet journalist said yesterday he was barred by authorities from attending a Unesco agency conference in Paris discussing assistance for non-government media in Eastern Europe (AP reports).

"This shows what they really think here of the freedom of the press, of the freedom of human contacts," Mr Grigoryants said.

Mr Grigoryants, the publisher of the independent human rights bulletin *Glasnost* and a former political prisoner, said his passport was confiscated when he tried to have it stamped with an exit permit.

Supreme Soviet approves Bill on the private use of land

Moscow (AP) — The Supreme Soviet yesterday approved a Bill that, for the first time since peasants were stripped of their farms by Stalin in the 1930s, would allow citizens to acquire land and bequeath it to their children.

The law would, however, stop short of legalizing full private property ownership by forbidding land sales. Under the new law, plots could only be leased and prices would be set by the state.

The measure is part of the package designed to give the force of law to the economic and social reforms championed by President Gorbachov. Tass said it was "a major legal document of

Soviet economic reform". All land was nationalized in 1917.

By allowing peasants working on collective or state farms to acquire plots and turn them into their own hereditary property, the Kremlin hopes to raise farm productivity.

The Supreme Soviet first voted separately on each chapter of the 52-article measure, then approved the entire Bill by 349 votes to seven, with 12 abstentions. Yesterday's four-hour session was the third time the body had considered the proposed "Law on Land".

Dr Aleksandr Nikonov, the president of the Soviet Agricultural Academy, who submitted the Bill, said that about 40 per cent of the original draft

had been revised to accommodate the suggestions for change made by the Supreme Soviet earlier last month, when 150 proposals and criticisms were made.

The Bill says that land is the property of the people living on a given territory and that every citizen has the right to a piece of it.

The Soviet Constitution says that "the land, its minerals, waters and forests are the exclusive property of the state". The Congress of People's Deputies, the parent body of the Supreme Soviet, will be asked to change the Constitution to accommodate the Bill when it meets on Monday week.

Hurd salutes Hungary's courage



Mr Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary, preparing to lay a wreath in Heroes Square in Budapest yesterday.

Visit to feel pulse of reforms

From Michael Knipe, Budapest

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, tested the political waters in Hungary yesterday by talking to the likely winners and losers in the elections scheduled for later this month.

He also met students at the Budapest School of Economics which, in a symbolic sign of the times, only the day before had had its name changed by the Hungarian Parliament from Karl Marx University. The Government faces a similar sort of metamorphosis in the forthcoming general election.

After having discussions with Mr Matyas Szarus, the acting President, Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Prime Minister, and Mr Gyula Horn, the Foreign Minister — all of whom are members of the Socialist Party — Mr Hurd visited the headquarters of the election front runners: the centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum and the liberal Alliance of Free Democrats.

The Foreign Secretary intends his visit to Hungary to be the first of a series to

Eastern Europe to observe the democratic processes being instituted.

He said on arrival in Budapest on Tuesday evening that he wanted to see the election campaign for himself and to listen to various strands of Hungarian opinion. He also wanted to show Britain's "keen, close interest and encouragement" as Hungary reached "the threshold of democracy".

There is disappointment in

Hungary that British businessmen have not responded as rapidly to the political and economic reforms being introduced as their Continental, Japanese and American counterparts. Of 900 joint ventures that have been set up involving \$300 million (£176 million) worth of foreign investment, Britain is involved in only 48, while West Germany is participating in 450.

The Hungarian Government is hoping that Mr Hurd's

visit will encourage the British business community to investigate the commercial prospects being opened up by the reforms.

"British investors are over-cautious," said Dr Jozsef Gyorko, the Hungarian Ambassador to Britain, who is accompanying Mr Hurd. "We have no problem getting loans from Japan, but we would like to see more British involvement in our economic development."

At lunch with Mr Horn, Mr Hurd said Hungary's "courageous and humanitarian" decision to open the borders to East German refugees in September might be remembered in time as a turning point in the fortunes of Eastern Europe. Hungarian reforms had been an example for others to emulate.

The warmth of relations between Britain and Hungary would be highlighted, he said, by the visit to Hungary next month by the Prince and Princess of Wales — the first by the royal couple to a Warsaw Pact country.

Hungary's gift to child

Budapest — A formerly wheelchair-bound British child, treated at the Peto Institute in Budapest, Hungary, yesterday demonstrated her new-found walking ability to Mrs Judy Hurd, wife of Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary (Michael Knipe writes).

Danielle Bowen Stark, aged 12, arrived in Budapest in January after a two-year stay in a hospital in London as a result of daily five-hour sessions at the renowned institute for the treatment of cerebral palsy and spina bifida victims. Her treatment costs of £14 a day are being funded by locals at the Rose and Crown village pub in Orpington, Kent.

There are about 100 British children among the 1,864 from 39 countries receiving treatment at the institute. The British Government is contributing £5 million and promising another £5 million from private sources for a new clinic.

Genscher bangs drum for Erfurt Liberals

From Anne McElvoy, Erfurt, East Germany

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, joined the political caravan to the East yesterday to wake the Liberals of Thuringia from their 40-year slumber.

With visits from Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, last week and Herr Willy Brandt on Sunday, the population of Erfurt looks like being the best informed or most confused in East Germany as Thuringia, the emotional heartland of East Germany, becomes the battleground for the main parties in the forthcoming election.

The Liberals, a coalition of three parties, are predominantly independent tradesmen with higher incomes and less fondness for the extremes of left and right than the East German working class.

They are now making a late burst, having profited from a move to the left by the Social Democrats and the pace of change being represented by

the right. The headquarters of the West German Liberals is a gloomy villa in one of the city's grander suburbs — a legacy of their past influence. The surrounding houses are occupied by functionaries from the former regime and local businessmen.

Inside, the local candidates look as if they have been taken out of one of the antique cupboards and dusted down. The regional leader, Herr Wolfgang Pape, admits that he has had problems finding enough people to stand.

"Our problem is that we have not attracted young people for 40 years. They either went to the communists or kept out of politics. Lots of people, especially in this region, are Liberals without even knowing it."

The Erfurt Liberals emerged as the strongest party in the last free elections in the city — but that was in 1946.

Three years later, the party, along with all other non-



communist groups, was relegated to a marginal position in the political spectrum.

Herr Genscher, proclaimed on posters throughout the region as the "architect of unity", brought cautious tidings of a gradual reunification programme to a crowd of 10,000 which had gathered in the Ash Wednesday rain on Cathedral Square.

Only a week ago, Herr Kohl had attracted six times that number. "The sun shone for

cause a wave of excitement. Trying to leave the square, Herr Genscher found himself mobbed by teenage girls asking him to sign posters. Nearby, the local youths were more interested in the convoy of silver Mercedes than the Foreign Minister.

Herr Genscher, embraced enthusiastically by a housewife, said: "I am an unlikely pin-up." He then retreated into his car, to the visible relief of the security men.

In this sedate city of cafes, chemist shops and churches, the population is clearly unnerved by the fierce election campaign being fought out on its doorstep.

Local Liberals admit that they are "going for the confused vote", the comfortably-off citizens who want an end to socialism but who are nervous of jumping straight into the deep end of West German capitalism.

It is a vote that is there to be captured — even if the uninspiring Liberals fail to grab hold of it in time.

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

'Saxons' of Transylvania ready for new migration

From Richard Bassett, Sibiu, Romania

While Romanians try to establish democratic government after years of Ceausescu's tyranny, the 250,000 Germans in Transylvania are fleeing an uncertain future, unimpressed by promises of a better life.

Entire communities of "Saxons" have abandoned the villages and towns which since the Second World War have been Europe's last Teutonic settlements outside Germany.

Summoned by King Geza of Hungary in the 12th century to colonise parts of Transylvania, these Germans have always been known as Saxons. They still speak a dialect riddled with 15th century phrases unintelligible to other Germans.

Under Ceausescu's rule the Saxons faced either forced assimilation or per capita payment in hard currency for emigration to West Germany. In 10 years more than 20,000 left for the West.

Inevitably, it was the younger members of the Saxon community who preferred to emigrate. Their villages had become increasingly isolated and their houses were filled with gypsies.

Two months after Ceausescu's fall, Saxons still enjoy no safeguards from a government seemingly as indifferent to the fate of minorities as Ceausescu was.

Life has become increasingly difficult for those who remain — mostly elderly people. Older men are often attacked by gypsies at night; children are robbed by their classmates.

"Come back soon if you want to find us still here, we'll certainly be gone in six months," says Herr Hans

Platz, of Sighisoara, a picturesque town in the foothills of the Carpathians, which the Saxons call Schässburg. "In Bucharest perhaps they have won something by their revolution but here little has changed."

Despite the absence of running water and other basics, Herr Platz's family keep an immaculate house. Compared to the squalor of most Romanian hotels, Saxon homes are models of hospitality and the safest place for any traveller in Transylvania.

"Of course we have different standards. Of course we could help Romania but none of us wants to risk more communism. We must get out while we can," he says.

Herr Peter Bellman, a teacher at the high school in the city of Sibiu, or Herman-

nstadt as the Saxons call it, argues that little will change.

"You can restore buildings — even rebuild those that Ceausescu demolished — but you cannot change a population corrupted by 40 years of communism and dictatorship," he says.

Nothing done by the National Salvation Front in Bucharest since the new year has given the German minority grounds for optimism.

Herr Bellman says: "They only speak about our rights but so far there has been no action. We cannot even erect a sign outside our German villages in German."

Bucharest's obsession with its own problems as politicians struggle for power is particularly galling for the villagers of Schäss, three of whom (out of 220) were killed

fighting against Securitate forces after Ceausescu fled.

As this Germanic culture retreats, its monuments — spectacular buildings and splendid medieval walled churches — fall into decay.

Transylvania possesses some of the finest Gothic church architecture. But in Sighisoara a 14th century church has had most of its windows smashed by vandals.

An old man who looked after the church said: "We applied every summer for 12 years for funds to restore the church but we only received permission to go ahead last autumn. By then everything was kaput."

Inside, apart from broken glass, lie fragments of 15th century choir stalls and older funerary monuments.

Despite armies of West German medical teams dispensing aid in the province, no one has thought of giving any aid to restore a key part of Europe's architectural heritage.

But the West German presence here is so thick on the ground that one cannot help thinking it is acting more as a magnet to draw the Saxons to West Germany than to encourage them to stay. The all-conquering German mark and the large numbers of Mercedes are a powerful advertisement for a Germany most of the Saxons have only read about.

After eight centuries a chapter of German and European history looks set to close before the end of the decade, less the result of Ceausescu's tyranny than of Romanian indifference to one of their country's greatest assets.

Priest stole to save artefacts



Father Dumitru Ionescu, an Orthodox priest, displaying some of the religious artefacts he saved from destruction by stealing them from St Vineri, a 17th century Bucharest basilica ordered to be demolished in 1987 by Nicolae Ceausescu, the former Romanian dictator.

Moscow sticks to 'fire first' doctrine

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Editor

The Soviet Union has refused to drop the military doctrine of "counter-preparation", which envisages a pre-emptive strike against Western forces, a senior US official said yesterday.

Mr John Maresca, chief US negotiator to the 35-nation Confidence and Security Building Measures talks (CSBMT) in Vienna, said yesterday that Soviet officials had said they were not planning to change the definition of "counter-preparation".

However, it would be put into practice only in response to an attack.

This reply has not satisfied Western negotiators, although their dissatisfaction has not been so great as to derail the talks. These are seen by Western, Eastern and non-aligned countries as a key element in the new relationship which is beginning to emerge.

"Many elements of Soviet policy still seem to us as offensive or quasi-offensive or equivocal... there are still suspicions which linger," Mr Maresca said in London, where he is holding talks with British Government officials.

● GENEVA: Under their Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty to be signed at the June summit, the US and the Soviet Union will reduce their arsenals by 30 per cent instead of the original 50 per cent target (writes Alan McGregor).

This is because some categories of weapons have been excluded from the scope of START I. It is intended that they come under a subsequent START II accord.

Romania restricts use of Hungarian textbooks

From Tim Judah, Bucharest

The Romanian Government has decided that Hungarian textbooks may not be used "as teaching material" in the Hungarian-language schools and universities that are now reopening in Transylvania.

Romania's two million-strong Hungarian minority are concentrated in Transylvania and under the Ceausescu regime their schools and universities were closed.

In a joint communiqué issued by the Ministries of Culture and Education, the Government denied reports last week that Romanian customs officers had attempted to pre-

vent Hungarian school-books entering the country.

However, it said: "As for certain classes of books — especially school-books sent from Hungary — we believe they may be suitable as documentary materials for experts and can be included in libraries, but they cannot be used as teaching material in the instructional processes."

Last week, Mr Octavian Stanasila, the Deputy Education Minister, said Hungarians and Romanians had differences of interpretation, especially regarding history and geography.

Eta suspected as parcel bomb maims post worker

From Juan Carlos Guncacio, Madrid

A post office clerk lost a hand and an eye when a parcel bomb ripped through the main mail sorting centre here yesterday in an attack which appeared to confirm fears that Spain is on the brink of a new terror campaign by Basque separatists.

The explosion occurred less than 24 hours after a similar attack in which Señor Fernando de Mateo Lage, a leading anti-terrorism judge, lost both hands and an eye when he opened a parcel in his Madrid home. On Tuesday night, police in Valencia dismantled another bomb addressed to an army lieutenant.

In both cases, the parcels bore forged official stamps.

There was also a police alert in Barcelona yesterday when a package containing an alarm clock was discovered in the

mail box at a state-run unemployment office.

Police said Señora Maria del Pilar Ruiz, aged 37, was maimed when handling a badly wrapped package at the Madrid sorting office.

The Spanish news agency, EFE, quoting police sources, said that the parcel bomb was addressed to a former prison employee at a maximum security jail in Alcalá de Henares. The parcel had been returned to Madrid after the postman who took it to the address was told the addressee no longer lived there.

Señora Ruiz, on instructions from superiors, was trying to open the package to find the sender's address. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the parcel bomb. But government officials said that Basque ex-

tremists of Eta, who have been blamed for at least three deadly parcel bombings last year, were the main suspects.

A spokesman for Herri Batasuna, the Basque coalition regarded as the political arm of Eta, denied this and renewed calls for a peace dialogue with the Government. However, the bombings appear to have destroyed prospects for a truce in the 21-year campaign for Basque independence. Only a few days ago, Señor José Luis Corcuera, the Interior Minister, offered to study demands for a dialogue if Eta observed a six-month moratorium on violence.

Secret talks between ETA and government representatives in Algiers collapsed last year after ETA insisted on full autonomy.

Japan Cabinet wrangle

Kaifu sows seeds of his downfall

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Japanese political commentators are wondering whether Mr Toshiki Kaifu, the Prime Minister, may have paved the way for his new administration's downfall by insisting on a say, however small, in choosing his new Cabinet. Traditionally, this is a prerogative of his party's grandees.

Even before the Cabinet was sworn in yesterday by Emperor Akihito, Mr Kaifu's days were being counted by cynics and critics at large and within his own Liberal Democratic Party.

Mr Kaifu waged a long battle into the early hours of yesterday to exclude scandal-tainted MPs from the Cabinet. But his battle against the LDP's old guard was noted in newspapers and coffee bars yesterday not for the fact that he got his way, but that he was made to look weak and vulnerable in the process.

Analysts say his fight to build a "clean cabinet" may have cost him the co-operation of the LDP's warlords tainted by the Recruit scandal.

Most tellingly, his own Cabinet members failed to rally round him. Mr Taro Nakayama and Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, the only two men kept on in their respective posts of Foreign Minister and Finance Minister, reacted coolly when asked about Mr Kaifu's cold-shouldering of scandal-linked MPs.

Mr Hashimoto said grudgingly: "There are various views. It is up to the Prime Minister to decide."

Mr Kabun Muto, the new International Trade and Industry Minister, snapped: "No comment."

Even after all Mr Kaifu's huffing and puffing, the Cabinet is still studded with men who take orders from Mr

Noboru Takeshita, the former Prime Minister, who installed Mr Kaifu last year.

According to yesterday's *Mainichi Shimbun*, a leading daily newspaper, Mr Takeshita is laughing openly about the spinelessness of his appointee and boasting: "I'm always telling the Prime Minister, 'Don't keep telephoning me. Decide for yourself.'"

A leading article in yesterday's *Asahi Shimbun* said that in being forced to haggle to get his way before the nation's television cameras, "Prime Minister Kaifu exposed the vulnerability of his power base in the governing party. The evils of the LDP's factional politics, where preference is given to the faction's interests over the nation's, have come to the fore. It also gives us no satisfaction that not a single woman was named to the Cabinet."

Mr Kaoru Okano, professor of politics at Tokyo's Meiji University, was little kinder. "I suspect that this Cabinet will be a short one, lasting only until the supplementary and main budget bills are passed (May or June)," he said.

THE CABINET

(denotes incumbents): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu; Justice Shin Hasegawa; Foreign Affairs Dr Taro Nakayama; Finance Ryutaro Hashimoto; Education Kōsuke Hori; Health and Welfare Yuji Tashima; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Tomio Yamamoto; International Trade and Industry Kabun Muto; Transport Akira Ono; Posts and Telecommunications Takashi Fukaya; Labour Shunpei Tsukahara; Construction Tamioka Watanuki; Home Affairs Keiichi Okuda; Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto.

Barry tells court he is not guilty

Washington — Mr Marion Barry, the Mayor of Washington, yesterday pleaded not guilty in court here to five charges of cocaine possession and three of perjury (Susan Elliott writes). Mr Barry was charged earlier this month after a 14-month investigation into his links to a drug dealer.

Jailed for year

Corpus Christi, Texas (Reuters) — Ronald Arab, aged 52, a Canadian from Vancouver, was jailed for a year and fined about £3,000 for conspiracy and money laundering connected with illegal arms sales to Iran.

Rebel collapse

Karachi — The interim Afghan Mujahidin "government" has virtually collapsed after Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, its foreign minister, announced the withdrawal of the support of his Hezb-i Islami faction.

Treason charge

Kampala (Reuters) — Mr Newton Ojok, Uganda's former Education Minister, has been charged with trying to overthrow the Government of President Museveni.

Book action

Tokyo (Reuters) — Nomura Securities, the large Japanese brokerage company, says it intends to sue Al Altitzauser, the British author of *The House of Nomura*.

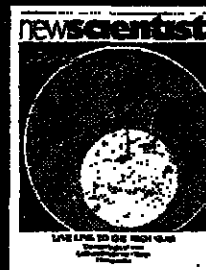
Kenya reward

Nairobi (AFP) — Kenya is offering £27,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers of Mr Robert Ouko, the Foreign Minister.

Shuttle launch

Cape Canaveral (Reuters) — After five delays the US space shuttle Atlantis was finally launched on a secret mission.

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February 28 1990

PARLIAMENT

Higher education policy attacked again in Lords

The Government's approach to higher education came in for sharp attack in the House of Lords for the second day in succession.

This continued attack was evidence, according to Lord Prior, the former minister, of the concern about what was happening and needed to happen.

Lord Amman (Ind), opening the debate, said that the Government's approach to higher education was "put in the picture". Nobody in the universities, polytechnics and colleges seemed to know what it was, he said.

"Today, morale in higher education is really at rock bottom and the brain drain is not an illusion."

"Does are not ready to accept Mr Robert Jackson's (Under Secretary of State for Education) blithe reassurance that as many members of staff are draining back to our universities as are draining out to America and elsewhere."

"The dons are not reassured because the count neglects the quality and age of those who are leaving compared with those who are coming back."

Advocates of polytechnics wanted them funded at the same level as the universities. "We must have some cheap higher education. Do not let the ship run aground on the rock of parity and esteem."

The new Secretary of State (Mr John MacGregor) had the advantage of being a Scot and therefore prejudiced in favour of education. Would he help those who worked in higher education and put them in the picture?

"If you try, you may at any rate win their respect. At the moment, you have lost it."

Lord Prior (C) said that 17.5 per cent more graduates would be needed by 1994. That was during a period of falling supply, so they would have to attract into higher education those less qualified academically and those from different social classes than most of those there at the moment.

"We have to change the culture to make higher education for us and not just for them. A house, a car and a

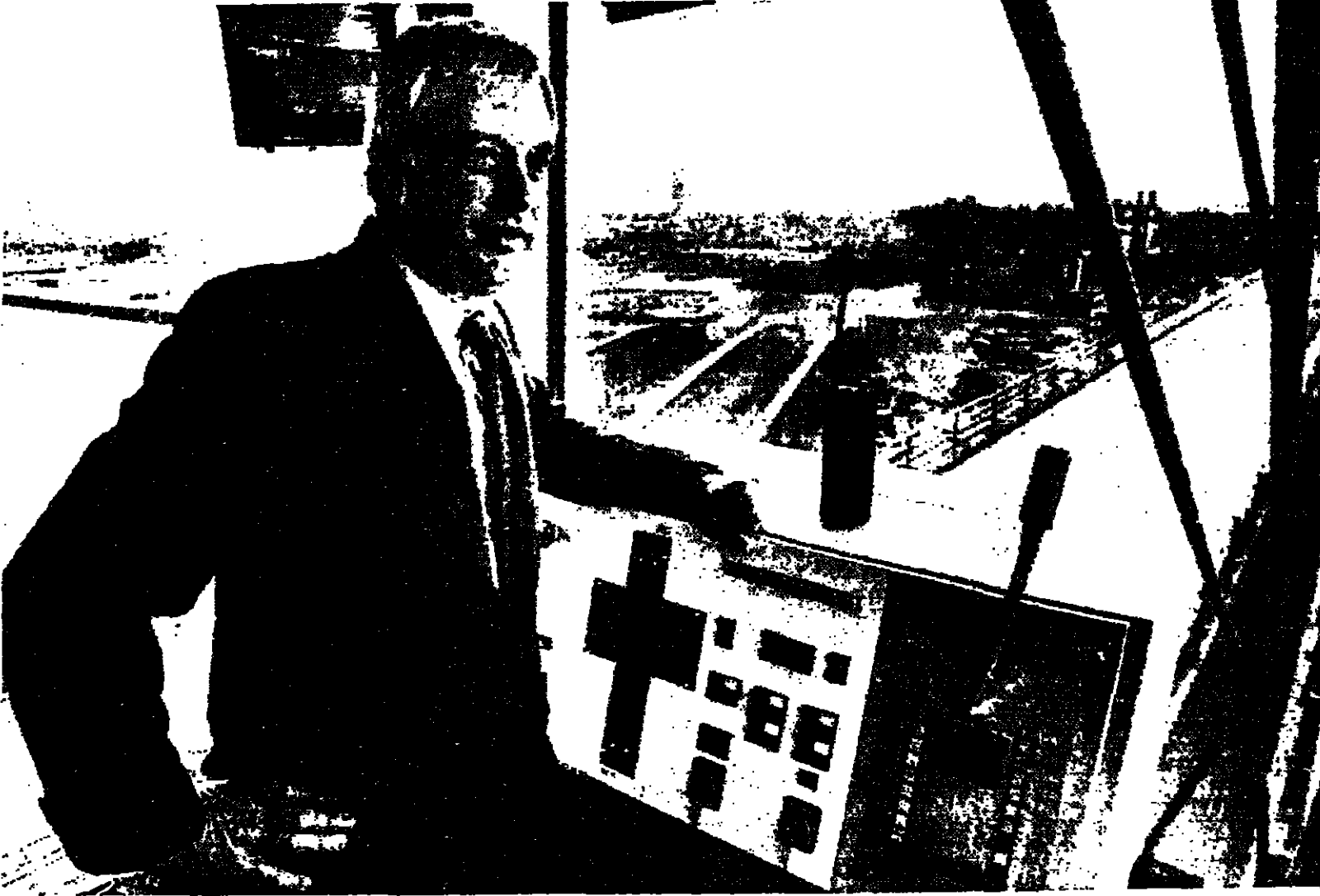
college education must become the natural aspiration of all people.

"We have to move from the elite to a mass system."

No government would ever find the money to expand universities and higher education as much as many believed necessary. He saw no alternative to encouraging student loans and some switch from block grant to fees, with more money from local authorities and less from central government.

Lady Blatch, for the Government, said that it was not true that our higher education compared badly with that of other countries in terms of funding and resources. The United Kingdom spent a higher proportion of its gross domestic product on higher education than most comparable countries.

The Government welcomed the decision of vice-chancellors to collect detailed information about numbers of staff going overseas and returning. Figures showed that there had been a greater inflow in every year since 1983.



Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, at the opening yesterday of the Connaught swing bridge in Docklands, east London.

Peers give Government majority of 50 on student loans

The following report of the later stages of Tuesday's debate in the House of Lords on the Education (Student Loans) Bill appeared, in part, in later editions yesterday.

The Government had a majority of 50 at the end of the debate on top-up loans for students.

An amendment proposed by Earl Russell (Lib Dem) regretting that the Government had not given the House sufficient detail about the Bill was rejected by 174 votes to 124 at the end of an eight-hour debate and the Bill was then given an unopposed second reading.

Winding up for the Government, the Earl of Cairness, Paymaster General, said that the Government was considering whether special repayment terms were required for

students, such as medical students, whose courses were longer and would therefore lead to larger debts.

Lord Bessborough (C) said that in the interest of students the scheme should not be delayed. It could be amended year by year in the light of experience and would become efficient and equitable by the time the loan element began to "ramp" up.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said that he was singularly unhappy about this measure. A loyal supporter of the Government, such as he was, should not remain silent when that Government appeared to be making a bad mistake.

It was wrong to compel every student, on becoming a graduate, to emerge as a debtor.

It seemed that the Government

HOUSE OF LORDS

was inflicting upon people and upon the universities a heavy burden for the sake of relieving public expenditure 10 or 15 years hence. Who could judge what the economic situation might be then?

The loans were not interest free. On the contrary, interest was being piled up at the rate of inflation. If one saddled every graduate with a debt, that would be an incentive for them to go abroad where they could not be pressed to repay.

Lord Nagent of Gifford (C) supported the Bill. He said that to encourage students to become dependent on the taxpayer was to under-

mine the sense of independence and responsibility which he wanted them to learn.

Lord Alport (Ind C) said that there was nothing more likely to deter those from working-class families where getting into debt carried social stigma, from undertaking higher education.

Lady Faithfull (C) said that she would not support the amendment. However, the Government must consider whether it was wise to institutionalize debt for young people.

Lady Cox (C) said that she supported the Government in the strongest possible terms. Higher education was a great privilege, but an expensive one. The average student would go on to earn 25 per cent more than

those without a degree, so there was no reason why the rest of the community should pay for that personal investment.

Earl Haig (C) said that, although he supported the Government, he feared that the scheme would be divisive and would favour those who were better off.

Lord Nelson of Stafford (C) said that the scheme was a small step in the right direction enabling more people to enter higher education.

Lord Kirkwood (Lib Dem) said that the loans were a potential disaster. They would bring complications and embarrassments for the Government similar to those it had experienced over the poll tax.

Lady Seaser, for the Liberal Democrats, said that it was a pathetic Bill. A

Government which had made such a mess of the poll tax and nuclear energy was not always right. The Bill should be put back in the oven and cooked again.

Lady Blackstone, for the Opposition, said that the scheme was a snoopers' charter. No wonder the banks had pulled out.

The real reason for the Bill, and rejection of a graduates' tax, was the Prime Minister's ideological claptrap about students being victims of a culture of dependency. That was a crude market view of the world — that you only appreciated what you paid for. Labour rejected that view.

The Earl of Cairness said that graduates who failed to pay back their debt to taxpayers deserved no sympathy.

Cash help after Scots floods

The Government is ready to provide extra financial help to pay for the repair of floodbanks in Scotland in the aftermath of the recent storms. Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State, Scottish Office, said at question time.

Aid through the Belwin formula would be available to all councils. Ministers were now waiting for reports of spending which they thought qualified for special help.

The rates of grant under the Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme, which were normally 50 per cent for the less favoured areas and 40 per cent elsewhere, were being increased to 75 per cent and 60 per cent respectively. These rates would be available for a period of six months from March 1.

Nuclear power 'must go'

The Liberal Democrat energy policy proposals launched at a press conference on Wednesday at the House of Commons recommend phasing out all nuclear power in Britain by 2020.

The group that drew up the proposals also recommends committing the party to building the Severn Barrage. That is likely to cause dissent among party members on conservation grounds.

The 36-page document proposes more research into the greenhouse effect; action to reduce sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions; creation of a deep underground depository for lower-level nuclear wastes and on-site storage for higher-level wastes.

Oil and gas confidence

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Energy, said in a Commons written reply that he was confident that the United Kingdom would become fully self-sufficient in gas and remain a net oil exporter well into the 1990s. Exploration and drilling in the North Sea was likely to reach a record for the UK this year.

Aid for B&B

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, announced at question time that he intended to bring forward regulations to ensure that small bed-and-breakfast establishments with six or fewer places or open for fewer than 100 days a year should be treated as domestic property and not liable to non-domestic rates.

M1 failure

Initial indications from an experiment on the M1 motorway were that 70 mph repeater signs had no effect on the speed of most vehicles, Mr Robert Atkins, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written Commons reply. The results of the experiment were being assessed.

Help from EC

Scotland received £857 million from the Regional Development Fund of the European Community between 1975 and last year, Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State, Scottish Office, said in a written reply. Of that sum, 90 per cent had been paid since 1979.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister. Debate on Wales (3): Courts and Legal Services Bill, report, third day.

Call for strong security tribunal

An enhanced Security Service Tribunal should be set up by the Government to avoid a repetition of the Colin Wallace "disinformation" affair, Mr Tom Dapell (Llanelli, Lab) said.

He was seeking leave under the 10-minute rule procedure to bring in the Security Service Act 1989 (Amendment) Bill, which would strengthen the powers of the tribunal.

He said that the preamble to the Bill represented an honest, serious stab at lessening the chances of a recurrence of what was generally called the Colin Wallace affair. In plain language, an enhanced Security Service Tribunal.

It might act as a deterrent to

the kind of thing that happened to the Wilson and Enoch governments of the 1970s and prevent similar things happening to a Kinnock, Baker, Patten or Heseltine government of the 1990s.

Elements of the Security Service had run amok. His proposal was about making them more accountable.

When confronted by books, such as Paul Foot's *Who Framed Colin Wallace*, or Captain Fred Holroyd's *War without Honour*, the tribunal would surely say: "It is our job to look at this stuff properly". It should be able to investigate as far back as it thought necessary.

The tribunal already existed.

He was not suggesting setting up an expensive new apparatus. The tribunal members were men and women who already had the necessary familiarity with the security services and their modus operandi.

The tribunal members were presumably considered sufficiently reliable to handle delicate and highly classified information. Everything was in place to give it the suggested powers.

Assuming — and it was a whopper of an assumption — the House wanted the truth of the Colin Wallace affair, he was not enchanted by the alternative. The privileges committee was not a suitable body to conduct an

investigation of a quarter of a century ago, and subsequent concealment.

At one time the Security Commission was a good vehicle for an investigation. But a letter from its distinguished chairman, Lord Griffiths of Gower, made clear that he could act only on a reference from the Prime Minister — and the House could judge how likely that would be.

Select committees had many virtues, but politicians of every party who wanted to keep their political noses clean with their colleagues were not the most impartial of investigative inquiry practitioners.

The Bill was formally read a first time.

Income tax move 'threatens small repertory theatres'

A number of small repertory theatres might well have to close if an Inland Revenue proposal to end the "self-employed" status of actors and actresses went through, Mr Tom Arnold (Hazel Grove, C) told MPs.

Speaking in an adjournment debate late on Tuesday, Mr Arnold, a former theatrical producer, said that great injustice would result, with newcomers to the profession unable to claim expenses against tax.

Urging the Government to think again, he said that theatres in the regions in particular, which tended to attract new-

comers and which were already under grave financial limitations, would be greatly affected.

He predicted that the acting profession would demand higher salaries and, to meet some of the demand, employers would have to reduce concessions offered to customers.

Sir Fergus Montgomery (Ayr, C) said that the profession had a higher percentage of unemployed than any other.

Actors and actresses incurred considerable expenses that would not be allowable under the new definition: the agent's

fee, touring and living expenses, subscription to Equity, audition expenses, telephone calls, postage, stationery and make-up.

"I hope that common sense will prevail and that we will have a change of heart on behalf of the Inland Revenue."

Mr Peter Lilley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that this was essentially a matter of law. The main court case had been in 1972. The ruling, a clear one, had still not been fully implemented.

The Inland Revenue would co-operate if Equity wished to bring another test case.

'Anti-fraud battle' pledge by Ryder

The Government's determination to fight fraud in the European Community was emphasised by Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, when he opened a Commons debate on Tuesday night on a Commission document on fraud.

The Opposition spokesman said that some fraudulent claims made under the support system for agriculture were uncheckable.

Mr Ryder said that Britain had spearheaded attempts to get to grips with fraud and the Commission's action stemmed in no small part from growing anxiety in Britain. British reporting of fraud seemed to be far more accurate than that of other member states.

The new expert refund monitoring regulations toughened existing arrangements by requiring customs officers to inspect a

proportion of items on which refund claims were made, and that proportion would rise to 5 per cent by 1992.

The Government rejected the report of the European Court of Auditors which alleged that the Commission was not all devoted to the intended projects. "Every Ecu (European currency unit) we get from the funds goes to the programme or project for which it is intended."

Mr Christopher Smith, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said that instances of fraud beginning to emerge related especially to the agricultural regime.

The system of intervention lent itself to fraudulent use. The Court of Auditors, the Commission on Fraud and the Government had so far made a good start in preventing fraud, but there was a long way still to go and much still to be done.

Praise and anxious expectation for Mellor

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The plaudits are being handed out to Mr David Mellor for his handling of the committee stage of the Broadcasting Bill as detailed scrutiny of its 167 clauses draws to a close.

Though there is praise for the deft manner in which the Minister of State, Home Office, has prevented the political temperature inside Committee Room 16 boiling over, the Opposition now expects him to turn his attentions to words.

"It has very much been a case

of nudge, nudge, wink, wink. Now we want the Government to respond to all the hints and promises," Mr Robin Corbett, Labour spokesman on broadcasting, said. "Mr Mellor promised to turn the hints and undertakings into words, either before the end of the committee stage or at its report stage. We want to ensure that he does not forget."

Opposition MPs believe that Mr Mellor has always been looking over his shoulder towards No 10 Downing Street, the residence of the real authors of the Bill to shake up British

broadcasting. They suspect that Mr Mellor is personally sympathetic towards arguments on the key question of quality, but has been anxious to avoid concessions being hailed triumphantly by his opponents as a climbdown.

Labour has listed 50 hints, suggestions and promises made by Mr Mellor and yesterday it should be clear that he should act on them.

On the key question, Mr Mellor told the committee that he would consider making it explicit in legislation that independent television franchises

could go to makers of outstanding programmes rather than to the highest bidder. He also indicated that quality could be one of the exceptional circumstances under which a well qualified bidder would not necessarily be the largest bidder.

The Opposition said that, rather than relying on the good will of the Independent Television Commission, which will award the franchises, or ministerial comments in committee, the changes must be written into the Bill.

Mr Mark Fisher, an opposition spokesman on the arts,

said: "If Mr Mellor can deliver on many of these hints, then he will have been 'finessing' his way to a better Bill, but if he cannot, he will pay the price."

He paid tribute, however, to Mr Mellor's stamina in handling the long hours of the committee stage, adding: "His own back-benchers have caused him few problems which is as it should be in a well organized committee." Of course, it also helps if the Government business managers ensure that none of the Bill's Conservative opponents are appointed to the standing committee.

Mid-Staffordshire by-election

A crucial test of main parties' morale

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Mid-Staffordshire by-election, declared yesterday for March 22, opens with the Labour Party, to its alarm, 1-5 favourites with the bookmakers to capture a Conservative seat lost at the last general election by the late Mr John Hiddle with a 14,654 majority.

To win the seat Mrs Sylvia Heal, Labour's candidate, needs a 13 per cent swing, even larger than that achieved at the Vale of Glamorgan by-election last year — and that was only the fourth seat Labour has taken from the Conservatives in the past 25 years. The recent Labour lead of 17 per cent in national opinion polls, however, does represent a 14 per cent swing to the party since the last general election.

With Tory nerves already frayed by the public reaction to high mortgage rates, rising inflation and the poll tax, the contest will have a crucial effect on party morale.

Loss of the seat would cause deep alarm in Conservative ranks with the May local government elections to come, especially since Labour plans to focus heavily on Mrs Margaret Thatcher personally. But Labour too needs a victory to sustain its momentum and its policies are under much closer scrutiny than a year ago.

There is also much at stake for the minor parties. The Liberal Democrats, still in the doldrums, rely on by-elections to break through to public consciousness and should face less competition from the Social Democrat Party now that Dr David Owen has disclosed his increasing disenchantment with the life of national politics.

The Green Party has failed to capitalise on its 15 per cent of the vote in last year's European Parliament elections and risks having that dismissed as

a blip unless it can make a good showing in Mid-Staffordshire.

At present, however, the contest appears a two-horse race likely to be decided by two crucial questions. Will disappointed former Tories, as they did in the Vale of Glamorgan, move right across to Labour in this more classless constituency or will they stay at home? And if the former centre party vote collapses, where will those votes go instead?

The comfortable Tory victories in the constituency at the past two elections have owed much to anti-Conservative forces being almost equally divided between Labour and the Alliance. They cannot say so publicly, but the Tories would not mind a centre party revival in the Midlands Mid-Staffordshire in that sense will provide key portents for the next election.

Defending the Tory majority is Mr Charles Prior, accountant nephew of Mrs Thatcher's former Secretary of State for Employment, Lord Prior.

He says there is no distinction any more between Tories and others in the Tory Party, that he supports government policy, dot and comma, and that the contest is not a test of Mrs Thatcher's popularity. "It's just that because she's such an obvious leader she takes the knocks."

A keen European, he denies that the Prime Minister is isolated on EC issues and says he is disturbed that people should think her so.

Acknowledging that interest rates and the community charge are the main issues, he plans to blame Labour policy and to claim that the Tories controlled Staffordshire County Council and Cannock District Council for pushing the poll tax 246 higher than it needs to be locally.

Unperturbed by the calling of the election two days after the Budget, he



Mr Prior: Supports government policy "dot and comma".

doesn't expect it to help his cause. The Chancellor, he says, must continue the squeeze on inflation. "I'm not expecting any fiscal stimuli."

His opponents see the election date as a Tory attempt to set up an excuse for losing the by-election after the Chancellor has paraded his toughness and responsibility.

"They are looking for an excuse on which to blame defeat," says Mrs Heal, a magistrate from Surrey, who made a key speech in last year's disastrous debate at the Labour Party conference, arguing that her unilateralism was worth sacrificing in a changed world if it aided a Labour election victory. An articulate,

approachable social worker in the "Kinnockite" mainstream of her party, and with something of the style of Mrs Glensy Kinnock, she says: "People are hungry for change: they've got an appetite for it."

She says that she encounters no suspicion that Labour has changed its clothes only in order to gain power and claims that people are shamelessly "confessing" to having voted for Mrs Thatcher before and promising her never to do so again. The poll tax, mortgages and National Health Service reforms are pushing converts across, she says, with no questioning yet of Labour's local government tax alternatives.

Mr Tim Jones, the barrister fighting the seat for the third time for the Liberal Democrats and the only long-time local resident among the main candidates, sees the poll tax as the issue for his party. The poll tax is desperately unpopular, he says, while Labour appeals unconvincingly to be trusted on details yet to come of its alternative. People see the logic of the Liberal Democrats' promised local income tax.

With a string of local councillors spread through the constituency, which straggles alongside the A51 with a high proportion of private housing estates, the Liberal Democrats are hopeful of setting off a centre party revival, pushing mainly local issues.

The contest is likely to involve a record number of candidates, including the National Front and a "One Nation Independent Tory, a former local mayor who is taking out advertisements headed "Get Her Out". The Green Party, checked, has issued a leaflet implying that it has the Prince of Wales's support. General election: J Hiddle (C), 28,644; C Seidl (Lab), 13,990; T Jones (Lib), 13,114; J Bazeley (Ind C), 836. C mail, 14,654.

Mortgage Rate.

Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate and Lloyds Bank Black Horse Mortgage Rate will be increased to 15.7% p.a. with effect from 1 March 1990.

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Ghosts in the party machine



Khrushchev ignored close enemies to his cost: will Gorbachov be able to avoid dangerous

companions? In the last of his articles on his homeland

Oleg Gordievsky, the former KGB officer and double agent, looks at the future of the Soviet Union — with and without its powerful President



In recent months I have often been asked: will Gorbachov last? The fall of the Brezhnev-pattern regimes of Eastern Europe was a sign that his position is as strong as ever. The explanation for this paradox is as follows: in the first four years after Gorbachov's appointment the East German, Czechoslovak and Bulgarian embassies in Moscow zealously provided their ministries at home with the information which their leaders Honecker, Jakes and Zhivkov wanted to hear: Gorbachov's position is precarious and the "sound" section of the party is dissatisfied and has almost stopped trying to come to terms with the wild outburst of "revisionism, bourgeois liberalism and subversion of Marxism-Leninism". Then, in September 1989, suddenly the embassies declared with one voice: there is not the slightest chance of Gorbachov going — he is there to stay. The Brezhnevites' last hope had evaporated.

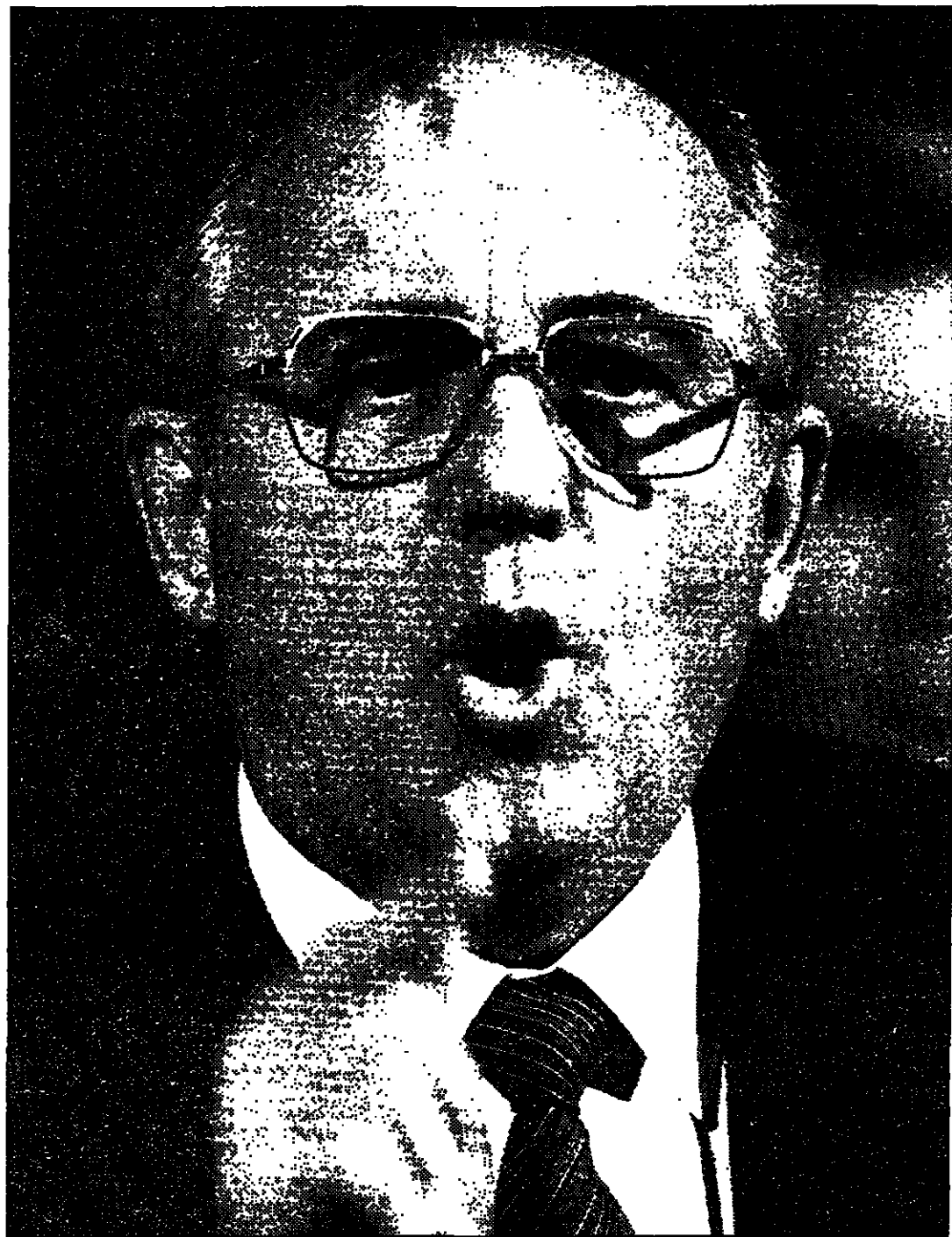
The turning point for Gorbachov was the Central Committee plenum last September, when he rid himself of the arch-reactionaries Vladimir Shcherbitsky and Viktor Chebrikov. This gave him absolute control over the Politburo and further strengthened his grip on the entire party apparatus. It is true that there still remained the Central Committee, number-

Gorbachov to form his own reconstructed Central Committee. However, in view of Gorbachov's plan to leave the party merely the role of a political avant-garde, gradually handing over its administrative functions to the Council of Ministers and local councils, it would be useful to him to have a power base in the legislature and also important for him to retain administrative powers. And this week we have seen him pushing the plan for an executive presidency through the Supreme Soviet.

The Soviet public realized long ago that Gorbachov is peculiarly able and adroit in consolidating his personal powers. In addition to *glasnost* and foreign policy, this is the third domain in which he has achieved impressive success. In a relatively short time after being elected General Secretary he became chairman of the Supreme Soviet, head of the Defence Council and head of the Central Committee Bureau for the Russian Federation. He almost completely reformed the Politburo and secretariat, arranged for 100 of the most hostile members of the Central Committee to be retired and will shortly become executive president, with wide-ranging powers, including the right to countermand the decisions of the Supreme Soviet.

Soviet observers understood that he needs powerful authority to overcome resistance from the reactionaries. On the other hand, the democratically-minded public is keeping a wary eye on a concentration of power in the hands of one man which is unprecedented in the history of the USSR. Constitutionally he is already more powerful even than Stalin. It reckons that this is a manifestation of the traditional instinct of leaders of the CPSU — their personal power is more important than all else. The public would prefer efforts to be directed to consolidating democracy and to bringing younger, more able and progressively-thinking people into the governing bodies.

In fighting to strengthen his position, Gorbachov has tried to prevent anyone who could threaten his position from reaching the top level, which means the Politburo and Central Committee secretariat. The present members of the Politburo do not lack ability, but not one of them appears to be of giant stature. On the progressive wing there are Aleksandr Yakovlev, Vadim Medvedev and Eduard Shevardnadze, none of whom carries sufficient weight or possesses an adequate power base to rival Gorbachov. In the centre is Nikolai Ryzhkov who, after years at the head of the Council of Ministers, is well acquainted with the economy, but has made no marked impression on politics or ideology. The traditionalist wing includes Yegor Ligachov and Lev Zaikov, the latter a classical party bureaucrat, outwardly colourless,



Follow my leader: Khrushchev (top) did not tame the Central Committee; is Gorbachov (above) more successful?

but well aware of which string to pull and when. Since Zaikov is responsible for the powerful body of military industry, and by virtue of this possesses considerable authority, Gorbachov is, it seems, attempting to restrict his power. Ligachov, the clear favourite of the party apparatus, was the only one who could have rivalled Gorbachov. But his transfer from ideology to agriculture and his evident advancing age are undermining his chances. After the next CPSU congress, analysis of the party leadership will have to begin from the beginning, since instead of the Politburo there will be an elected body — the Praesidium, different in both number and composition.

This said, it is important to remember that each member of the CPSU leadership has his own

ambitions and would, if events turned out well for him, unhesitatingly agree to become head of the party if the opportunity arose, even in the face of a still more serious economic and social crisis, and the general public would forget all about the dullness and lack of originality they now display. In the lower ranks of the apparatus — ministries, industry, the Army, the KGB and the academic world — there are many people with the brilliance of mind to lead the USSR. But the system will not permit them to emerge. Only members of the Politburo can enter the struggle.

Even national deputies, who include a number of able people, cannot achieve the leap into power. True, Yeltsin, who counts on making a comeback, is trying to prove an exception. He intends to

become a member of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and then be elected chairman of the Praesidium. As chairman, he would be entitled to enter the Politburo. However, after rejecting Yeltsin, the party apparatus is doing everything possible to prevent this happening.

It appears that Gorbachov's position should continue to be strong — but in the USSR it is increasingly impossible to expect anything like transparency or predictability. Unexpected factors emerge: the appearance of powerful figures such as the neo-reactionary head of the Leningrad party organization, Boris Gidaspov; the danger of general strikes; the possibility of mass riots because of food or fuel shortages. Social turbulence may prompt the Central Committee or

even the Army to take action. It is, therefore, necessary to consider the hypothetical possibility of Gorbachov's departure.

The following developments, with and without Gorbachov, are possible:

● Due to an unlikely chain of events a progressive group comes to power, headed by a man such as Yakovlev and supported by a regional group led by Yuri Afanasyev and Yeltsin and other liberals. These people would sharply increase the rate of democratization of society and decentralization of the economy, place greater emphasis on the progressive aspects of foreign policy and demote the role of ideology. From the West's point of view, this version would be ideal but, unfortunately, it is most unlikely since democratic forces in the party and society are very weak and disorganized.

● The arrival in power of an inveterate traditionalist, like Zaikov as a result of upheaval within the party. This event would probably see a continuation of previous policy but with much more caution. Urgent measures would be taken to improve the supply situation, but preparation for economic reform would be slow and gradual. *Glasnost* would not be abolished but its range would be restricted. Foreign policy would mostly be unchanged but in some respects a harder line would be adopted. The party's monopoly of power would not be re-established in legal terms but the existing political structure would be retained for an indefinite time.

● A change of power as a result of a *coup d'état* — possibly military. This might happen, against a background of severe economic disruption, if there were a split in the Communist Party or if non-Communist parties entered the struggle for power. An emergency would be declared and a committee of national salvation would be set up, headed by a powerful figure from the Army, military, industry, the Interior Ministry or the reactionary section of the party apparatus — someone of the type of Gidaspov or General Boris Gromov (the former Soviet commander in Afghanistan). Martial law would be introduced in the Baltic states, the Caucasus and some cities in Central Asia. Representatives with special powers would be dispatched to the most critical sectors of the economy, such as transport, retail trade and the food and consumer goods distribution network.

● Strict censorship would be introduced and the progressive press would be muted.

Opponents of socialism, revisionists and bourgeois nationalists would be temporarily interned and some of them sentenced. A hard line would be adopted in foreign policy, especially on the issues of disarmament, troop withdrawals from central Europe and the German question, and the "class struggle approach" to international relations would be revived. Cordial relations would be established with China. After a careful purge of the party and the media, the committee would hand over power once more into the party's hands and thorough "de-Gorbachovization" would take place. In this version the country's situation would be reminiscent of China's after June 1989.

The most likely variant is one where Gorbachov's regime remains in power. A fair amount of insight into his future is provided by the last Central Committee plenum and the platform then adopted. On the whole, this document indicates a step forward in the gradual democratization of the USSR. In the first place, the party proclaimed that it was making no claim to monopoly — although it does not intend to renounce power. This is indicated by remarks about retaining an avant-garde position and an appeal to the party to act as political leader. Progress, however, may be seen in the fact that the platform will allow political groups to be formed which will, in essence, be parties, but only ones which "stand for renewal of a socialist society". The head of the KGB, Vladimir Kryuchkov, speaking at the plenum, expressed his horror at the possible emergence of "anti-

communist and monarchist groups".

The party's attitude to the KGB is symptomatic of its ambivalent attitude to power. The platform devotes several paragraphs to the need for reform in the army, but on the KGB it merely remarks that it "remains a vital and essential institution".

The economic section of the programme also calls for discussion. The categorical requirement for planning when a free market is introduced, and the refusal to hand over land for private ownership to farmers, do not hold out much promise either for upgrading industry or for reviving agriculture. The ban on hiring labour which is categorically laid down in the programme, is particularly counter-productive. (For instance, a shoemaker who opens a workshop will not have the right to take on an apprentice.)

The section on the legal system and human rights is more promising, although it will be difficult to guarantee if a one-party state is retained.

The section on renewal and democratization of the party inspires genuine optimism. If the ideas set out are implemented, and the congress in June will reveal this, then some other kind of Communist Party may gradually evolve. The present generation of party bosses will depart, fresh currents will flow in and discussion will begin, and it may

None of the progressives carries sufficient weight or possesses a power base to rival Gorbachov

be that in a few years the new Central Committee will adopt a new platform which will envisage a multi-party system, a free market, and even a CPSU ready to go into opposition.

In the meantime, Gorbachov is left with all his problems. If he does not manage to halt the economic decline, the acute food shortage may bring about a situation which no one can now foresee. Should the "socialist market" somehow contrive to continue to function, however, in 10 to 15 years the Soviet Union will resemble Yugoslavia as it was 20 years ago.

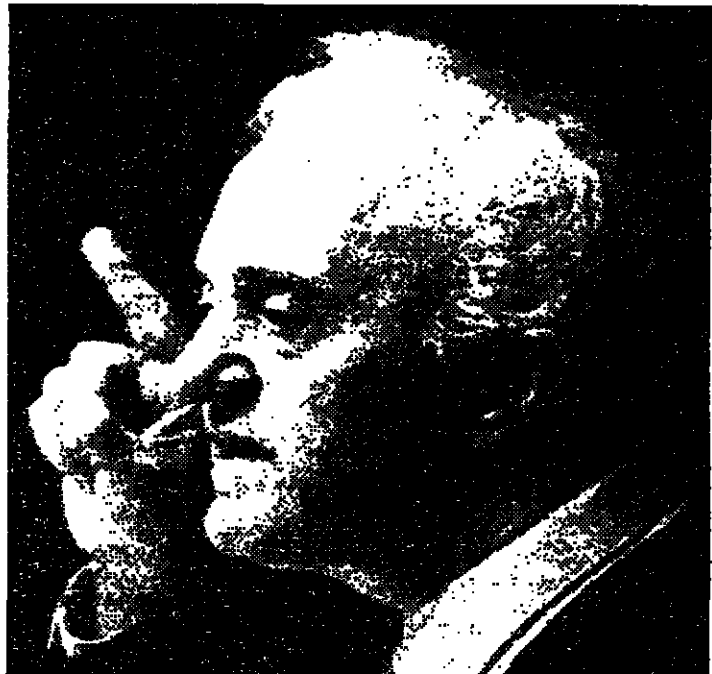
The swift changes in recent months have provoked discussion about destabilization. I find it difficult to see why the departure of the countries of Eastern Europe from a bloc which is hostile to the West should be destabilizing for the latter. The alarm felt by some western politicians and diplomats over possible future minor disputes about territory among these countries is truly a small price to pay for freedom and democracy.

The extension of democratic government in Europe and the merging of East and West Germany will promote the security and stability of the West. In different circumstances, the USSR would have stubbornly insisted on demilitarization and neutral status for a reunited Germany. Now, politically weakened, and with the economy on the brink of a precipice, the USSR will be forced to agree to the new Germany being a member of Nato.

This concession, like the concessions continually made at disarmament talks, would be made in the interest of obtaining vital economic aid from Germany, and from other western countries.

There are no grounds for fearing democratization of the USSR on the grounds of military security. If there were, in fact, a really democratic parliament in the Soviet Union today, it would not on any account be voting the enormous resources for military requirements which are being wasted at present, nor would it drag the nation into rash ventures abroad.

Serious fears are being aroused in the West that as a result of political and social destabilization, control of strategic nuclear forces might fall into the hands of irresponsible elements and the risk of Armageddon would arise. These misgivings appear to be exaggerated. First, the Soviet Union's strategic weapons are located in the heart of Russia, so unrest among the other nationalities would not affect them. Second, they are under the control of carefully chosen, trustworthy persons in the Government, the army and the KGB, who do everything possible to prevent any misuse of such weapons. Third, if destabilization were to occur, it would not be instantaneously, as in Romania, but gradually, giving the West sufficient time to grasp the situation and take action. Such an action might even include an agreement between the US and the USSR on mutual exchange of observers to monitor the maintenance and servicing of strategic nuclear arms, with the aim of preventing any from being used in error or exploited by malefactors.



Contenders for power: progressives Vadim Medvedev and Eduard Shevardnadze (left and right), neither of whom have a power base to rival Gorbachov, and the centrist Nikolai Ryzhkov

TIMES DIARY ALAN HAMILTON

When the Prince of Wales visits Cameroon later this month, he will be denied the chance to get among his beloved virgin trees. The World Wide Fund for Nature invited him to visit Korup National Park, established on the Nigerian border to protect 135,000 hectares of primary rainforest. It is a shame that the Prince's vision of conservation. But the visit would have required a helicopter journey. Palace officials planning the tour took one look at the local air transport available and ruled that they were not going to risk the neck of the Heir to the Throne in a Cameroon chopper. Instead the Prince will have to be content with looking at a very small and somewhat artificial forest display which he can reach by road. Such considerations do not trouble his father, the WWF president, when he visited the other half of the same forest last year. Prince Philip travelled (whether complaining or not I cannot say) in a Nigerian army helicopter.

Better news for the Prince, however, on the architecture front. The Italian government, having put the exquisite 400-year old Villa Lante in the Roman countryside at his long-term disposal — initially for his Summer School in Civil Architecture this September — is preparing to offer him another. Nearby Caprarola, a splendid Renaissance villa built on a medieval castle, is much bigger and grander, and is his for the asking if the summer school idea takes off. Competition for the first 24 places is, I gather, already intense.

Some Hampstead thinkers, in Hartlepool to assess Peter Mandelson's chances of keeping the seat for Labour when Ted Leadbitter retires, decided to go native and sample the town's excellent fish and chips. "Cod and chips twice," said one, already *en fait* with the patois. "And," pointing to a large steaming dish of mushy peas, "some of that delicious-looking avocado mousse." No, I don't believe it either.

Now look here, this won't do. David Mellor, Home Office minister in charge of broadcasting, has disclosed that after touring the premises of a certain satellite TV outfit, he intends to equip his Putney home with one of those abominable squarials. "As a consumer I am entitled to make my choice," he said defensively after attending a satellite and cable conference yesterday, adding guardedly: "But, so often in life, excitement is followed by disappointment. We shall see." Mellor may be a classical music buff, but the real intelligentsia go for dishes of a different shape. Harold Pinter, leading opponent of monolithic media baronies, has finally sold out — to cricket. In the basement of his mansion in Campden Hill Square is a little cubbyhole known as the Sky Room. Harold cannot exist without live coverage of England's performance in the West Indies.

BARRY FANTONI



"From now on, comrades, for running dog read running mate"

Poor old Skoda cars, which suffer mightily from derision at their presumed tractor-factory Czech origins, have at last attracted a tiny touch of class to the marque. They are sponsoring a seven-week run, which opened at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith, last night, of a cycle of three one-act plays, *Audience*, *Protest* and *Private View*, written over 20 years ago but banned until last autumn. The author? Václav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia. You've seen the play; now drive the car. Except that I feel duty bound to point out, Havel's presidential transport is a Renault.

Public relations campaigns, however, can sometimes appear to have been a complete waste of time. Since they were turned from government agency into limited company nearly four years ago, the people who run our major airports have expended considerable time and money educating us in the fact that their name is now BAA — initials, they insist, stand for absolutely nothing at all. Imagine the distress of their chairman, Sir Norman Payoe, at this week's inaugural meeting of the Aviation Club, as he heard the guest speaker refer to the body repeatedly as the British Airports Authority. As Transport Secretary, you would think that Cecil Parkinson would know better.

My grandsons are now collectively six-and-a-half years old. One of them is identical, but as we keep forgetting which one, my daughter has grown Max a pigtail (or possibly it is Harry who has the pigtail). Anyway, that is how we tell them apart. When we see the twins, we no longer ask "which is which," we say "remind me which one has the pigtail," and my daughter, their mother, says "it's Max with the Pigtail like MP" (or possibly Harry with the Pigtail like HP). I like having grandsons in Battersea, hope this is mutual. I mean I hope Max and Harry like having me as a grandfather quite far away also.

Last year, before they started going to pre-play-school and were just terrorizing Battersea, they did an audition in a film: it was for a scene early on, before they (the Krays)

The prospect of German reunification — quite possibly this year — is one of the earliest fruits of the tremendous events of the past few months in Europe. First reactions in Britain — intended to convey a cautious welcome — were widely and no doubt unfairly, taken as grudging and unimaginative. Subsequent efforts to set the record straight have been hampered by near-hysterical reflexes in parts of the popular press.

Yet I stand by my suggestion last November that it would be dangerous as well as futile to swing against the emotional tide of popular support in both halves of Germany for reunification. Germany will be united. If this is achieved against the map of European opinion, rather than with the full blessing of Germany's partners, it will entail a far greater likelihood of destabilizing Europe — the very outcome its critics most fear.

Happily, that danger is largely behind us. There is now a general acceptance, even in the Soviet Union, that reunification — properly managed — offers tremendous opportunities for us all, if only we will seize them.

The broad mechanisms for managing the transition have

become clear even before the East German elections which will be held this month. The four wartime allied powers have residual responsibilities, which are respected in the "two plus four" formula under which discussions will take place between the two German states and the four powers.

The unified Germany should be part of Nato, but with no troops in what is at present East Germany. Nato itself will need to adapt to the new realities, and the security and co-operation summit later this year will be an important stage in that process. It is already clear that Europe can achieve a balance of forces with far fewer troops and armaments. That is the peace dividend, which we should not be afraid to declare.

If reunification on this basis is to become a reality, there is one further requirement. Both Germanies must give binding under-

Leon Brittan outlines a positive EC response to reunification

The German opportunity

relationships (perhaps culminating in membership): the countries of Efta and the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. Rapid East German integration into the Community raises a large number of immediate practical difficulties. Much attention has already been paid to German monetary union and its likely impact on the wider process of European economic and monetary union. I consider that the inflationary implications of German monetary union have been exaggerated. I am confident that the Bundesbank's commitment to monetary stability will be undiminished, and that the necessary adjustments to maintain it will be made. These adjustments will be both economically modest and politically acceptable. So there is no reason why the German process should cause us either to delay or to accelerate our own work on economic and monetary

Settling the terms of German reunification in the context of European security is vital, but along with that there is the question of the political and economic relationship.

It is here that the European Community is crucial. This is because the Community has become, quite simply, the main-spring of European integration. It is the natural focus for the emerging European order, both for those, like East Germany, that are shortly to be within the Community, and for other countries which must define new

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law in this respect — and what are the implications for fair competition as long as we hold back? Agriculture, too, will pose formidable problems, linked to the general problems of transition from a command economy to market mechanisms.

These are not academic questions. They are of crucial importance to every businessman, farmer and consumer in the Community. We are engaged in defining the terms under which the new Germany will take its place in the European market.

The European Commission has already started examining such questions, at the request of the Council of Ministers. And I am sure that we can arrive at workable solutions. There are those who see a danger of the size and economic power of a united Germany upsetting the balance of Europe. Whatever the validity of that fear, the best way of allaying it is to ensure that a united Germany forms part of a confident and dynamic European Community. That is the best guarantee to the smaller countries that their interests will be protected in the emerging Europe. Sir Leon Brittan is Vice-President of the European Commission.

Proof that no woman is an island

Ronald Butt contends that Mrs Thatcher, like many another leader after a run of hard-won victories, has become flawed by hubris

We know only too well by now the things that have gone wrong with Mrs Thatcher's government. What is harder to understand is why they have gone wrong, often, apparently, for no good reason.

We know, above all, about the return of inflation and the crippling cost for so many people of the high interest rates that are again needed to bring it down. (This time there is no Labour nor neo-Keynesian legacy to account for it.) We know too that the cost of mortgages intensifies inflation-propelled wage demands, threatening the return of damaging industrial disputes.

It is also only too clear that the government which invented the poll tax is much more likely to be blamed for its adverse consequences than the local authorities which levy it. Then there is the discontent with the condition of the public services, from the hospitals to transport, and public unease about the long dispute with the ambulance men.

We recall, too, how the un-expected conflict between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Nigel Lawson over economic management vitiated confidence in Government policy long before he resigned. At the back of our minds there is also the memory of the messy way in which the last Cabinet reshuffle was carried out.

Abroad we had first Mrs Thatcher's earlier resistance to Mr Gorbachev's proposals for nuclear disarmament within Europe, and now her liberally voiced suspicions about the consequences of German unification. Suddenly Britain seems oddly isolated from its allies,

and for no very good reason.

So we can hardly be surprised that the Government has sunk to an alarmingly low level in the opinion polls, dangerously late in the Parliament, with a MORI poll giving Labour a straight 17-point lead. How stark the contrast seems with the days when the Government took on the unions, and won; tackled inflation, and (almost) won; privatized industries on a scale that nobody had supposed possible; sold council houses; reduced taxation; even tackled the egalitarian deadweight in education.

Even in the hardest times of the 1979 Parliament, it was obvious that the Government's intellectual opponents (their economic and social ideas rooted in the 1960s) were wrong in their belief that it would end in Tory defeat in 1983. The reality was that the old ways were finally discredited. Labour was still unregenerate, and there was no alternative to Thatcher policies.

All this has clearly not gone wrong now simply because Mr Kinnock has driven his party to discard much of what had made it unelectable. For Labour still offers nothing that is persuasive in its own right. There is not the slightest sign that it is ready with a vision, or even, as in 1964, with a beguiling mirage, to attract voters. Labour's prospects rest only on the hope that, with the collapse of the political centre, it will look just about politically respectable enough to be the beneficiary of the Government's self-inflicted defeat.

Either party could win the next election, and everything depends on how the Government performs from now on. Its



handicap is not simply its wrong turning in economic management, but voters' stored memory of the Thatcher record in this Parliament. It has fallen into two possibly fatal political traps.

First, it has developed the psychological flaw which afflicts almost all politicians who have been conspicuously successful in battles against heavy odds. History is littered with great leaders who come to feel invincible. Confidence turns into foolhardiness, and criticism from friends is brushed aside as weakness or treachery. (Thus critics of the poll tax, even from the economic right of the party, are demagogued as wet.) In this hubristic spirit, will-power is supposed to vanquish all opposition until events prove the contrary.

Second, Mrs Thatcher's Government has allowed itself to become narrowly doctrinaire in outlook. To say this is not at all

to criticize the economic policies and theories with which it reversed inflation, privatized industry, unleashed the opportunity to regenerate industry by enterprise and made many people much more prosperous.

Mrs Thatcher brought great courage in standing against the influences in her own party which would have undermined these policies. But it was perhaps that fight against the so-called wets, and the uncompromising stance she had to take, which moulded her permanent demeanour of always seeing attack as the best method of defence.

It is always politically disastrous to become so attached to a single doctrine or set of attitudes as to believe that they are self-sufficient and need neither enlargement or adjustment. Yet too often the Government has seemed to assume that free-market doctrine, in its simple

sense, was enough, provided the old social systems of the welfare state were broadly maintained, figures of higher social spending could be trotted out, and there was a little administrative tinkering (on the NHS, for instance, or targeting welfare benefits).

In deeper social thinking there has been comparatively little interest. For example, though it used to be fashionable in the Government to talk about the "social market", Mrs Thatcher has never been interested in its real relevance, which (as in West Germany) is to combine a total market system for making the economy prosperous with a comprehensive and thoroughly thought-out social system which benefits from the prosperity. (For instance, she has never agreed that constructive worker participation in firms is a way of diminishing the more destructive kind of union power.)

The Conservative Party has always been a party with basic

principles which guide its adaptation to historical change in politics, and a belief in flexibility in action. Increasingly in recent years, however, the Government has given the impression of seeming to wish to answer the inflexible dogma which has guided Labour by a dogma of its own. Even the present economic downturn arises from this flaw.

If when the budget surpluses were piling up and the economy was booming, more of the proceeds had been applied to the infrastructure and less to national debt repayment, we might both have had a more efficient economy and (especially if credit restraint had been applied more quickly) avoided the inflationary credit boom in the private sector. But it has been assumed that what is not (yet) convenient for privatization is not well placed to claim investment.

In part, the Government's errors arise from the length of its time in office. New problems arise each day, but new thoughts for dealing with them are less easily come by. And so the Cabinet has become inward-looking, rigid and prone to mechanistic thinking. It is this that has made it cling to the poll tax, patching and stitching as it went, to try to remedy each snag as it emerges; only to find another one. Much the same applies to the patched-up scheme for student loans. There has developed an unwillingness to read the writing on the wall or even to take public opinion seriously. In all this, the public blames primarily Mrs Thatcher. She is so head and shoulders above her Cabinet that it is bound to be so. It is essential for the Tories, in the decisive year ahead, that she should listen not only to the disciples of the established political creed, but to critics and to public opinion. For the simple political fact about almost all the Government's current difficulties is that they are of its own making.

Child care — the allowances that go begging

Edwina Currie on support for working mothers that is widely ignored

By now, most people have heard of the "demographic time-bomb", the coming drop in the number of school leavers which will force employers to look with more interest at such exotica as the elderly, black people and women to fill their vacancies in the next decade. By 1995, according to the Department of Employment, 80 per cent of all new jobs will have to be taken by women. But the main group still available for employment — women with young children — presents a problem.

A Gallup survey for the CBI last year showed that 21 per cent of women with young children who are not working (and as many as 41 per cent of all single-parent mothers who are not) would return to work immediately if suitable arrangements could be made for the children. For many women, child care, or some form of employer contribution towards it, will make the difference between choosing to work and being unable to choose, yet only 3 per cent of employers have started to think about "the perk of the Nineties".

It is widely believed that there are no tax incentives, and loud are the calls from pressure groups for the Government to do more. But there are tax reliefs, starting with the business itself. Any employer who pays for or towards child care for employees, or who runs a facility on company premises, can treat the expense just like most other costs of employment (the car, the telephone, for example). And this includes capital costs. The costs come out of the profits declared against tax, and it may well be cheaper to offer child care than to pay overtime or to recruit and train a new employee in a time of shortage.

Of course, subsidized child care is treated as a "benefit in kind" for income tax purposes, but a company which pays directly for child care will find there is no Class I employers' national insurance to pay. Compared with the cost of paying an equivalent cash sum to the working mother, that is a saving

to the business of up to 10.45 per cent for a typical employee. And the mother, in turn, does not have to pay national insurance on the benefit; so this already amounts to a subsidy of nearly 20 per cent from the Exchequer.

There is another concession. Provided her total annual income, including benefits-in-kind, is less than £8,500, a working mother does not pay income tax on the benefits. This is an arbitrary limit, and has not been increased since 1981, but it should help many women who work part time, and many others in low-paid work, below the ceiling of £165 per week.

The rest of us have to pay tax, usually by an adjustment of the PAYE code. The move to independent taxation next month will benefit millions of women. It is clearly cheaper for a woman to take advantage of child care benefit-in-kind, and pay tax on it, than to pay for such care herself out of income after tax and national insurance.

Taking a cut in salary in exchange for benefit-in-kind can be a gain. Suppose I earn £8,500. After tax and national insurance, I have £6,460. Paying for a nursery place could bring my net income down to under £4,500 — barely half my gross income.

However, if my company pays directly for the nursery place and reduces my salary so that its costs are identical, I will be nearly £300 a year better off. If my salary plus the £2,000 nursery place total just less than the £2,500 limit, I will be more than £600 better off, and my company will be nearly £200 in pocket too. Here is the tax relief effective but largely unknown.

The most expensive kind of child care is the nanny. This involves paying employer's national insurance contributions for the nanny out of taxed income, so the working mother may well find that she is working for peanuts. The nanny may be clearing more than she is. To pay her nanny a gross salary of

£7,200, a working mother paying 25 per cent marginal tax rate must earn more than £10,600.

I looked at some sums recently for a woman earning £17,200 employing a nanny at £7,200 (which is not excessive in London). If she can persuade her company to pay the nanny direct, she can take a cut of as much as £7,000 in her own salary (leaving the employer's costs much the same), have the nanny and be almost £1,200 a year better off. She may lose some pension rights, but with the cash in hand, she can make her own arrangements to cover the gap. The gain is even bigger if the mother moves down from the higher tax bracket to the lower one.

None of these concessions is secret, but they are hardly used. Why not? Because few know about them. If the Government really wants to promote women's opportunities in the job market, it can do no better than to tell everyone about how the Exchequer can help. Fortunately,

nately, job-market pressures are finally forcing employers to be more imaginative.

There are substantial savings for the Government, too, if single parents currently on benefit return to work, even part-time, as many wish to do. The Department of Employment pays single mothers on Employment Training £30 a week towards child care, but many mothers in low-paid jobs are unable to find similar sums out of taxed income, so they give up and go back on the dole, which benefits nobody.

The job market in many parts of Britain, not just the South-east, is already uncomfortably tight; half the employers in East Anglia, for example, have recruitment problems. We need women at work if we are not to slide into inflationary competition for the shrinking numbers in the young workforce. I hope more employers will investigate the concessions that exist, take professional advice, and make full use of them. The author is Conservative MP for Derbyshire South.

Cogito maxime, ergo sumo



CLEMENT
FREUD

seriously embarked on their downwardly mobile careers. Max and Harry did not get the parts. The director asked one of them to take the other's toys, then have the other pull a knife on him. He said: "Action," and Max grabbed Harry's teddy bear as instructed. Harry watched, smiled, gave Max his jigsaw and his plastic mallet and then hugged him. The director said: "Next." My disconsolate daughter telephoned and said it was no good. I asked why. She said it was because they did not take direction — so I told her that this was exactly what the Krays did not take; judges and the people at Broadmoor would confirm my statement if she did

not believe it. It was too late; some other twins got the parts and there remain, roaming around Battersea for all but a couple of pre-play-school hours five mornings a week, a brace of three-and-a-quarter-year-old boys each weighing three-and-a-half stone — which is a substantial weight for children of that age.

I would like them to take up the friendly and convivial sport of sumo, for which they are ideally built. Naturally I accept that it will be some years before they can enter even the lowest *jonokuchi* division, but time is on their side, as is the length of Max's hair. Harry (if it is Harry) will just have to grow his and we have sent off

for *bintsuke*, the sumo's superlative pomade, richly scented with oil of camellia, which keeps hair in place during bouts, though until they make the rankings they can tie their hair in a topknot.

The *o-icho-mage* in which hair is pulled back, tied and then doubled forward in a fan-shaped leaf of the sacred *ginkgo* tree, goes with success — as does the personal attention of a *tokoyama*, the oriental Vidal Sassoon figure who bows a lot and travels with his traditional case of boxwood combs.

Sumo wrestlers wear a 30ft loin cloth known as *mawashi*, which is folded lengthwise to eight inches, wrapped around the waist, passed between the legs and knotted at the back. None of this is as crucial as building them up on the recognized diet of *chanko-nabe*, the all-embracing stew cooked in containers the size of

washbasins. A typical *chanko* will be bite-sized chunks of pork or chicken or fish, flavoured with sugar and soy, with which are simmered carrots and onions, cabbage, leek, spinach and mushrooms, tofu and bean-paste. It is not the stew that is greatly fattening; it is the huge amounts consumed, the many bowls of rice eaten as accompaniment, the serious quantities of beer and sake drunk therewith and the fried noodles that are eaten as between-meal snacks, which make the bathroom scales go down.

What I find especially attractive about the sumo profession is the esteem in which successful

competitors are held. Once in the *makonouchi* division, wrestlers assume the mantle of male goddesses, get invited to lend prestige to dinner parties, are photographed with distinguished guests, given great wads of tax-free folding money which, I have explained to the boys, is traditionally sent home to benefit the old folk.

As I write, Max and Harry are training in the basement of their house in Battersea. The ring is a little short of the 14ft-10in regulation size; their *mawashi*s are fashioned of tattered ties no longer used by their grandfather, but the game's the thing: they are already really proficient at throwing salt, and on yesterday's bout, one of them emerged the winner by *tsumi-dashi*. On it might have been the other. Sumo with real wrestlers is shown on Channel 4 television.

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FOURTH ESTATE IN FLUX

There has been a remarkable flowering of new newspapers and journals in Central and Eastern Europe — 400 in Hungary since the fall of Janos Kadar in May 1988, nearly 600 in Poland since last August. There is a tremendous hunger for news, and a wholesale rejection of propaganda. Readers are defecting from the party papers, which are struggling with mixed success to distance themselves from party dogma and adopt a completely new philosophy of reporting and comment.

The impression is that the collapse of the communist monopoly of information has been even more complete than that of the parties which used the media as their mouthpiece. The reality is more complex. The old *Nomenklatura* remains well entrenched. Some of the new media, particularly in Hungary, remain in party hands. The party monopoly of newsprint, printing presses, distribution facilities and even newspaper kiosks is only beginning to be broken.

Many of the new papers are struggling on shoestring budgets, lacking both the equipment and the management skills needed to survive in what are becoming highly competitive markets. Genuinely independent newspapers, those without ties to the Church, to old or new political parties or to movements such as Civil Forum in Czechoslovakia, are few, and will fail unless they find their feet as commercial ventures.

All the countries of the former Soviet bloc are entering periods of austerity as they struggle to convert to free market systems. Even in the euphoria of freedom, popular assent for painful economic reforms is by no means assured. The existence of a flourishing independent press providing accurate information and a forum for debate could make the difference between success and failure.

In some respects, the nascent free press is a victim of the economic reforms. In Poland, newspaper subsidies were abolished on January 1. Overnight, prices trebled to world market levels and, even though most of the larger papers are overstaffed, paper and ink now account for 70 per cent or more of costs.

ONE CHEER FOR RANGOON

Campaigning began officially this week for Burma's general election in late May — its first multi-party poll for 29 years. Six major political parties and more than 100 minor ones are preparing to fight over 491 seats.

The less good news is that martial law is still in place, with a curfew which is rigorously observed. The number of political prisoners remains high. Last week's report on human rights from the US State Department said that a conservative estimate of politically motivated arrests during 1989 would be at least 4,000. All election publications will be censored and although political rallies are permitted they will take place behind a screen of watchful soldiers. No foreign scrutineers are being admitted.

The military junta's leading political opponent, Mrs Aung San Sun Kyi, has been under house arrest since last July. She is the daughter of the revered General Aung San, who led Burma to independence, and her National League for Democracy would almost certainly win a free poll. As it is, she has been banned from even standing: one reason appears to be that she is married to an Englishman. U Nu, the last elected Burmese Premier, has also been barred from putting himself forward.

Burma's history since independence reads like a tragedy in three acts. The central figure in the longest of them is General Ne Win. He overthrew U Nu in 1962 and established a ruinous dictatorship from which the country has not even begun to recover. Although forced to "retire" in 1988, he has continued to exercise power behind the scenes. Meanwhile all pro-democracy demonstrations have been forcibly, often brutally, suppressed.

The evidence suggests that the May elections are intended to deceive those Western powers (they include Britain) which have cut off aid. The National Unity Party, favoured by the

Strains on family budgets mean there is little scope for raising newspaper prices, while advertising, as elsewhere in Eastern Europe, is extremely under-developed.

The news industry is unlikely to survive in a healthy state without Western aid, investment and technical assistance. Britain already finances training for journalists under a programme set up for Poland last June and to be extended to Hungary and Czechoslovakia. That is important, particularly in areas such as business and court reporting where skills are scarce. Quite as vital, however, are advice on new technology and commercial skills which, because they are so alien, are held in some contempt: newspaper accounting, the creation of advertising departments and distribution and circulation techniques.

That is where Western news organizations could play a role. This week, at the request of six leading Western media associations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held a two-day meeting in Paris to give East European editors the opportunity to explain their needs to Western colleagues and potential investors.

Altruism and commercial interest should march hand in hand. The first joint ventures have already been launched in Hungary and Poland, and more proposals were put forward in Paris. The market in Eastern and Central Europe has considerable potential, but at this period of transition to the market-place, most newspapers are not yet commercial propositions. There is also understandable anxiety, particularly in East Germany, about being swallowed up as junior partners of Western concerns.

For Unesco, this exploratory meeting is a test of its willingness to break with two decades of attempting to corral the media and return to its original mission of promoting the "free flow of ideas". For the Western press, it is a challenge, as the rebirth of democracy in Eastern Europe enters a testing phase, to translate its belief in the freedom of the press into action.

junta, has alone been given a free hand by Rangoon. Thus the mantle of power may be slipped over its shoulders without the Army (or Ne Win) feeling the draught. Few inside or outside Burma are likely to be impressed by such a charade.

General San Maung and his junta are driven by a form of misplaced nationalism. They profess to see both communists and right-wing dissidents behind every manifestation of protest. Burma sorely needs to end its isolation and re-qualify for foreign aid. Now classed as the ninth poorest country in the world, it felt impelled last year to sell valuable teak logging concessions to neighbouring Thailand — whose businessmen are now stripping one of Burma's last remaining assets. The uprooting of thousands of people from the cities and their enforced resettlement in the countryside is the latest sign of the junta's paranoia. A visiting group of West German parliamentarians has accused it of torture and illegal imprisonment.

The one thing to which opponents of the regime may look forward with any hope is the death of Ne Win. Rumours about his health remain conflicting. On the one hand they say that at the age of 78 he still plays a regular, if restricted, game of tennis. Others talk of a steady trickle of foreign doctors summoned to his well-protected villa.

It is still possible that the poll will produce a result unwelcome to the junta. That, however, does not mean that a transfer of power would automatically ensue; the Army promises only a period of consultation during which constitutional change will be considered.

The most that may be said for the election is that it provides a distant glimmer of light. Meanwhile the world's growing family of democracies should continue to make clear to the junta the opprobrium in which it is held.

Russians in Prague

From Mr Colin M. Lawson

Sir, In an exclusive despatch for the *Daily Express* from Prague in August, 1988, I revealed how the Soviet Union occupied the city within four hours by seizing Prague airport with an armed group flown in earlier in the day under the pretext of a special delegation visiting the Soviet Embassy.

They then directed the arrival by transport aircraft of two armoured brigades, which were in the city centre by midnight. Meanwhile, five Warsaw Pact armoured divisions took over the rest of Czechoslovakia by more orthodox means — i.e., by road — within 36 hours.

May I ask why, then, it is taking the Soviet Union nearly 18 months to evacuate the Red Army's 73,000 troops (report, February 27)? Shortage of housing in Russia is given as one reason. Shortage of housing in Czechoslovakia did not prevent the Red Army from throwing Czechs from their homes or hotels from being requisitioned in 1968.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN M. LAWSON,
9 Palmer Square,
Hove, East Sussex.
February 27.

Bicycles by rail

From the Reverend Father Christopher Delaney

Sir, Every year I go cycling on the Continent and make my own travelling arrangements. And every year I find the hardest task is getting the bike to the coast by British Rail. Once at the quayside the rest is plain sailing.

First, it is necessary to book the

bike on train, in my case to London, and then to discover that there is no room for the cycle on the train. At Victoria Station there is another not inconsiderable payment on the boat train for the bike which has to be pushed into a hopelessly overloaded luggage van. If the bike is registered at Victoria Station and thereby sent separately, I run the risk of having to wait at the other end for the machine for perhaps two days.

Furthermore, last year on the return journey, I was nearly arrested at Victoria Station for collecting my bike from the luggage van (having put it there myself in the first place) because the van happened to be for registered luggage only and was therefore impounded until passed by the customs. This is all a far cry from Robin Neillands' happy account of cycling holidays (Review, February 17).

Yours faithfully,
C. DELANEY,
Saint Mary's Priory,
61 Talbot Street,
Cardiff.
February 20.

Forth Bridge scale

From Professor R. A. Smith

Sir, The article on Forth Bridge (Review, February 24) was very timely. I used the pictures on display boards I prepared to celebrate the bridge's centenary. The picture of Benjamin Baker's three-man demonstration of the cantilever principle is well known. A contemporary description provided a vivid explanation of the scale of the bridge:

Imagine the chairs one-third of a mile apart and the men's heads as high as the cross of St Paul's, their arms represented by huge lattice steel girders and the sticks by tubes

12 feet in diameter at the base, and a very good notion of the structure is obtained.

The Japanese man in the centre not only "represented the engineer's debt to the East for the idea" (a rather fanciful notion) but was Kaichi Watanabe, who after studying as a research student under Lord Kelvin at the University of Glasgow worked as a junior engineer on the project.

On his return to Japan Watanabe became chief engineer of the Japan Public Works Company and played a major part in the modernisation of Japan. He was typical of many of the brighter students of Meiji Japan who came to Britain to receive technological training at that time.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK A. SMITH,
University of Sheffield,
Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering,
Mappin Street,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
February 26.

Proven identity

From Miss Jane M. Reynolds

Sir, Obeying the injunction to keep one's cheque guarantee card separate from one's cheque book, I found myself in Sainsbury's with no other means of identification except my kidney donor card. This was accepted without any hesitation.

The management considered that I must be "me" because I would not be carrying another person's card.

Yours sincerely,
JANE REYNOLDS,
Sundel, 68 Firs Road,
West Mersea,
Colchester, Essex.
February 25.

MoD attitude to heat illness

From Dr Alan Porter

Sir, The recent court martial of Lieutenant Gordon Smith (report, February 22) is disquieting. There is much direct and circumstantial evidence of widespread ignorance among Service instructors about heat illness and this is the third known occasion an instructor has mistreated a serviceman seriously ill or dying of the condition. It is inconceivable that instructors would act in this way if they had been informed about prevention, recognition and first aid and if they had received clear orders about how to react to a collapse.

I have a folder of letters extending back over six years that demonstrates that the Ministry of Defence and Service authorities have reacted with a mixture of indifference and ignorance whilst resenting outside interest.

The charges laid against Lieutenant Smith seem to me to reflect blame away from the Ministry of Defence.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PORTER,
37 Upper Gordon Road,
Cambridge, Surrey.
February 26.

'Private' cars

From Mr M. Gurnell

Sir, Mr J. H. Stanton claims (February 27) that two thirds of motor cars are company-owned and company paid-for, and that the company car needs controlling to alleviate congestion. Only 14 per cent of cars on Britain's roads are registered in company names according to the *Lex Report on Motoring*, 1990.

Mr Stanton may have been referring to the fact that last year between 55 and 60 per cent of new car purchases were paid for with company cheques; after two to three years these cars become "privately" owned.

As the vast majority of company cars are not "perks" but workhorses — essential tools to the salesman or engineer's trade — abolishing them would solve nothing. The claim that they would be at a loss financially by using other forms of transport becomes meaningless, because they would have no option but to buy and run a car privately, claiming costs back from the company, in order to fulfil their job requirements. Thus there would be little or no effect on congestion, although we would probably see more breakdowns.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE GURNELL,
(Editor, *Fleet News*),
Gannet Response Publishing Ltd.,
Westwicks House,
Westwicks Street,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
February 27.

A pretty pass

From Mr J. St. Bodjan Gruffydd

Sir, Revisiting my birth-place recently, I plucked up courage to look at the Dinorwic pump storage scheme near Llanberis, in Gwynedd. Thinking of the tremendous fight the amenity and conservation bodies had to persuade the CEBG through Parliament to at least carry out the proposal in the least damaging way, I approached the site with some trepidation.

There, in place of the view-blocking dams originally proposed at each end of Llyn Padarn, were modest embankments, quite inconspicuous in the scale of the surrounding mountains. The view from the foot of Llyn Padarn is still clear right up Llanberis Pass and Nant Peris village still enjoys its normal climate.

This is an excellent example of how schemes of this kind can be carried out and the CEBG is to be congratulated on acting on the advice that was given. Would that this had been done with the same care at Cwm Dyli, near Nantgwynant.

Yours faithfully,
J. ST. BODJAN GRUFFYDD,
Black Hill, Jubilee Drive,
Malvern,
Hereford and Worcester.

Brighton organ

From Mr Leonard Lazell

Sir, Restoration of the dome at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton is now almost complete (report, February 24) at a cost of £9.3 million. Well done, and please spare a thought for the colossal but quite magnificent concert organ inside, neglected, dusty, dirty and unplugged, in need for the necessary expenditure in maintenance the instrument could be returned to its former glory. Must its majestic voice be silent for ever?

Yours sincerely,
LEONARD LAZELL,
Phoenix House, 5 Redleaf Close,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Chinese tea race

From Captain P. E. Du Vivier, RN

Sir, Mr Ronald Macdonald's letter (February 24) about the Chinese tea race accounts a most impressive feat of seamanship. For the record, and to complete the picture, it may be of interest to your readers to know that, in addition to the *Taiping* and *Ariel*, three other clippers came together off the Scilly Isles in the same race.

The *Scylla* had sailed from China in close company, while the *Fiery Cross* had an advantage of some 14 hours and the *Taiping* crossed the bar of the Mong river about a day behind. At journey's end the *Scylla* docked on the same tide as the *Ariel* and *Taiping*, all ships having spent all but a day or two of their 99-day voyage out of sight of each other.

Cut and thrust over the poll tax

From Councillor R. W. Ainsworth

Sir, There are far too many people, from the Prime Minister downwards, generalising about the reasons for the poll tax levels. Some of your recent correspondents (February 17, 26, 27) are making the same mistake.

In reality, the situation is very complex and varies enormously between each local authority, not least because the scale of change in the financial framework, including a new grant-distribution formula and the national non-domestic rate, has a different effect for each authority.

We have a Labour-controlled council. Our 1990-91 budget is 8.9 per cent up on 1989-90, primarily because of pay awards, particularly the local government officers' settlement of 8.8 per cent, and Government legislation (poll tax and the Education Reform Act). No massive growth here, yet our poll tax is £394. Why? Compared to rates there is a loss of income from the non-domestic sector of some £9.5 million, adding £43 to our poll tax.

The Government's target of £329 assumes everyone registers and pays. This is clearly unrealistic. After a year's experience Scottish authorities are now budgeting, on average, for a loss of 5 per cent, equal to £21 on our poll tax.

What is needed is some measured assessment during the coming months to understand the significance of each of the various factors influencing poll tax levels.

What is clear now, at whatever level of poll tax, is the gross injustice of the system itself with its enormous redistribution of burden from houses with a high rateable value (the rich) to those with a low rateable value.

Yours faithfully,
BOB AINSWORTH (Chairman, Finance Committee),
Coventry City Council,
The Council House, Earl Street,
Coventry, West Midlands.

From Mr Sidney Sugarman

Sir, While Jack Straw (article, February 26) inveighs against "the morality" of the poll tax there are good reasons for questioning the morality of his own argument,

Cheese control

From Mr Peter Puggson

Sir, Charles Hennessy ("Safety tests to be snuffed at", Review, February 24) outlines the serious problems facing cheese producers in this country. It is well to remember that 12 multiple super-markets control 73 per cent of the food market and very few super-markets boast the range of cheese he describes.

Whilst the proposed temperature controls are relevant to dead foods — i.e., cooked/chill meals — they are anathema to live foods such as cheese. This includes many English cheeses, not just French ones.

The Specialist Cheesemakers' Association are setting hygiene standards to be monitored by the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service for their members, most of whom make cheese from fresh milk — i.e., direct from the cow to the cheese parlour — as opposed to the bland majority whose milk comes from various

Training vouchers

From Mr D. Battersby

Sir, Offering vouchers to pay for training and career development (Mr Ashby's letter, February 15) assumes that the individual can assess and determine the right path for training which leads to ultimate employment. This can be a false assumption, especially in the case of unskilled workers.

Only employers create jobs. Many small/medium businesses find the cost and risk of increasing their labour force too high in times of economic uncertainty. Most prefer to recruit direct and train their own workforce in specific skills looking more for personal attributes of zeal, flexibility, discipline and reasonable articulacy.

Illness on planes

From Mr B. H. Lingard

Sir, I read with interest your report (February 24) concerning the increased incidence of illness aboard passenger aircraft. The previous day I had completed a seven-day round trip involving four two-hour scheduled flights on popular short-haul aircraft.

Passenger aircraft are now tailored down to provide the smallest ergonomically acceptable dimensions in every direction. Aisle widths are ridiculously narrow; seat widths are minimal, and seat back-to-back measurements, even in Club class, are agonising for people of quite modest leg lengths. It now seems almost inevitably

the case that every seat will be taken up, leaving no relief to the searied ranks of bodies.

Small wonder then that, against this stressful background, those who do not enjoy the best of health may succumb to illness during flights. The time has surely come when much more generous provision for aisle widths and seat dimensions, together with much stricter requirements for hand luggage, are imposed on short-haul flights, despite the consequent increases which would result for passenger fares.

Yours faithfully,
B. H. LINGARD,
77 Cheyne Court,
Royal Hospital Road, SW3.
February 26.

Incidentally, *Ariel*, having been in the van to pick up the *Dunagess* pilot first, was beaten by a short head as *Taiping* secured a tug in the Thames in better time.

The feat of the *Elle* et *Vire* is no less impressive. However, I wonder whether this modern craft has it in her to do it again and again and without the aid of instant communications.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL DU VIVIER,
61 Woodbury Avenue,
Petersfield, Hampshire.

From Mr Gordon Clarkson

Sir, Mr Ronald Macdonald wrote with enthusiasm about the tea

particularly in the way he presents the contrast between the couple who "will save £1,000 a year" and another "couple in an adjoining street who will have to find an extra £500 for the new tax".

By his own definition the poll tax is a flat-rate tax, based on the principle of the individual's duty to contribute towards the cost of the services provided for everybody's use. But his hypothetical example fails to take into account the familiar example of the widow living out her last years in the family home, required under the present system to pay (using Straw's own figures) seven or eight times as much in rates as the "couple living in Suffolk Street". The widow might have little more than her pension; the Suffolk Street couple could both be wage-earners; indeed, Straw's "rows of 19th-century terraced houses" may each have three or four adult wage-earners with an aggregate income far outstripping the widow's.

The widow is by no means hypothetical. In this area there are many widows, in modest flats, who have to pay £1,000 yearly in rates, while their younger neighbours, enjoying the same local-authority services while living in shared or rented accommodation, might pay nothing at all. These, together with others who in the past have paid little or nothing towards the rates, would naturally prefer the present system to continue unchanged.

If there are going to be cases of an "excessive burden on the shoulders of the poor and the worst off" it should not be impossible to ensure that such cases will receive appropriate consideration and relief. But to describe the new system as an "inequity" because it brings into the area of fiscal responsibility those groups who until now have enjoyed the benefits without contributing to the costs is surely a gross misuse of terms.

Yours faithfully,
S. SUGARMAN,
8 Airedale Court,
5 Wilderton Road,
Branksome Park,
Poole, Dorset.
February 26.

sources mixed in the back of a tanker.

At the same time the UK Cheese Guild is, with the country's leading dairy college at Reaseheath in Cheshire, creating a six-part training scheme, financed by leading cheesemakers in England and overseas. It will commence in September, 1990, with the first diplomas awarded in July, 1991.

Although no encouragement, either moral or financial, has yet come from the Government, many leading multiples are expressing great interest in this scheme, as well as specialist independents. Let's hope that the politicians and bureaucrats will take note and not, through ignorance of the product, legislate these fine cheeses out of existence.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PUGGSON,
UK Cheese Guild,
Old House, 6 Terrace Road,
Buxton, Derbyshire.
February 26.

and numeracy in those recruited.

It would encourage employers to recruit more staff if vouchers were given to the unemployed, who in turn gave them to the employer to offset the cost of on-the-job training and the risk of increasing his payroll costs. With such a system would be helping the economy and encouraging small businesses to create jobs, real jobs that the unemployed can fill.

Yours faithfully,
D. BATTERSBY (Chairman),
Acem (UK) Ltd. (Engineering fabricators),
10 Davy Drive,
NW Industrial Estate,
Peterslee, Co. Durham.
February 21.

the case that every seat will be taken up, leaving no relief to the searied ranks of bodies.

Small wonder then that, against this stressful background, those who do not enjoy the best of health may succumb to illness during flights. The time has surely come when much more generous provision for aisle widths and seat dimensions, together with much stricter requirements for hand luggage, are imposed on short-haul flights, despite the consequent increases which would result for passenger fares.

Yours faithfully,
B. H. LINGARD,
77 Cheyne Court,
Royal Hospital Road, SW3.
February 26.

Incidentally, *Ariel*, having been in the van to pick up the *Dunagess* pilot first, was beaten by a short head as *Taiping* secured a tug in the Thames in better time.

The feat of the *Elle* et *Vire* is no less impressive. However, I wonder whether this modern craft has it in her to do it again and again and without the aid of instant communications.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL DU VIVIER,
61 Woodbury Avenue,
Petersfield, Hampshire.

From Mr Gordon Clarkson

Sir, Mr Ronald Macdonald wrote with enthusiasm about the tea

clippers' race of 1866 and its remarkable result, the *Taiping* docking in London just half-an-hour ahead of the *Ariel* after 99

Museum site for Docklands

From Lord Lovell-Davis

Sir, The Chief Executive of the London Docklands Development Corporation (February 21) writes that "the LDCC's substantial support for [the Docklands Museum] project over the past eight years... has not yet led to a decision by the Museum of London to go ahead with an achievable scheme". This is an over-simplification.

The Museum of London approached the LDCC in 1982 with a three-point plan:

1. The life and work of the area should be recorded before the great changes in Docklands took place.
2. The LDCC should select and preserve historic buildings and structures which could be adapted to serve the new and old communities.
3. An area and buildings should be designated by the LDCC to provide a museum of international importance devoted to London's port and industries.

This was accepted by the corporation. The first element has been substantially achieved and has resulted in the formation of an internationally important collection. I leave others to comment on the success of the conservation policy for historic buildings, but the new museum has not been realised.

The chance of raising the necessary large sums for such a jewel in the redeveloped Docklands crown has never been tested because, despite four separate and carefully thought-out proposals from the steering committee set up to oversee the museum, the LDCC never committed themselves to a site, nor put sufficient pressure on a developer to find one.

In 1988 we were nearly there. A joint working party was formed between the LDCC and the Museum of London which reported in June of that year that the best and possibly last opportunity to realise the new museum was in historic buildings at the Royal Victoria Dock.

Detailed proposals for this scheme were presented to the LDCC in January, 1989. Soon after this, however, the LDCC were proposing a much smaller scheme in commercial premises at the North Quay, West India Dock. They argued that the anticipated redevelopment of the Royal Dock was a long way off and that they could not go on supporting the project indefinitely.

In December, 1989, given these realities, the Museum of London and the steering committee agreed to pursue the North Quay option and the LDCC undertook to provide funding to enable the project to go forward over three years from April 1, 1990. The financial offer was suddenly withdrawn in January (report, February 2, later editions) placing at risk both our current services and eight years of intensive work to find a permanent home for the museum.

Yours sincerely,
LOVELL-DAVIS
(Acting Chairman, Museum in Docklands Steering Committee),
The Museum of London,
London Wall, EC2.
February 27.

NHS reforms

From Mr D. J. Moss

Sir, Your correspondent, Dr Oscar Hill (February 9) must be spending too much time in Harley Street, for he surely underestimates the ability of NHS managers and clinicians to handle the present wave of reform. Dr Hill also confuses the achievement of NHS trust status with the implementation of workload contracts for patient activity.

Southampton General Hospital, which is one of the largest teaching hospitals in the United Kingdom, will not be an NHS trust by April 1, 1991, but we will be well prepared to offer workload contracts to a wide range of health authorities by that date. Indeed we will have over 16 regional specialities on a shadow contract basis from April 1, 1990.

We welcome the opportunity to be paid for the volume and complexity of the work that we carry out and, if we are successful, this can only benefit teaching and research.

Yours sincerely,
D. J. MOSS (General Manager),
Southampton General Hospital,
Shirley,
Southampton, Hampshire.
February 12.

In case of need

From Mrs Susan C. Balsom

Sir, Trying to reach Aberystwyth yesterday in the rail chaos that followed recent storms, I eventually boarded a crowded train from Euston. After half an hour and several apologies for a delayed departure due to staff shortages, there came a desperate plea over the intercom: "Would any passenger who is a British Rail guard please come forward".

I wonder whether *Times* readers have other variations of "Is there a doctor in the house?" crisis de coeur?

HEALTH

Press-ups for the mind

Can regular mental exercising improve your intelligence? As *The Times* gets in shape for the 1990 Tournament of the Mind, Ruth Gledhill weighs the evidence

A growing interest in "mental gymnastics" — exercising the mind through solving demanding logical or numerical problems — is generating fresh debate about the value of traditional IQ tests as a measure of intelligence. In an area that has been rife with controversy since Descartes first mooted the possibility of his own existence, scientific research is leading to increased understanding about the mechanics and abilities of the mind. Some philosophers believe the mind can be trained and improved by using logic and other mental exercises.

The *Times* Tournament of the Mind, a competition which begins next Tuesday, involves solving such problems. The aim is enjoyment, but the games can have their serious and useful side as well.

What do we mean when we talk about the mind? Professor Mark Sainsbury, professor of philosophy at King's College, London, says: "When people in philosophy are asked about the mind they tend to give an answer in functional terms, that is, the sort of behaviour having a mind enables you to go in for."

A very great deal of our mental life consists in solving problems. No doubt the problems in the Tournament are fairly abstract, the solutions for which are not acquired for any practical purpose. "But the logical and intuitive resources that are brought to bear on solving them may be exactly the same as those we need to solve problems where the practical upshot is more significant. There are lots of problems, from computer design through philosophical problems, which involve exactly that skill of extracting that type of information and organizing it properly."

According to directors of Britain's first "brain gymnasium" which recently opened in Wimbledon, south-west London, even well-nourished and logical adults can be taught to exercise the mind better, in order to ease stress and expand learning and thinking abilities. Marketing consultant Ronald Dards, UK agent for the US-based Whole Brain Learning Institute which runs the gymnasium, says the brain can be trained "just as we can train any of our muscles so as to run faster, lift weights or climb mountains".

Some people who remain sceptical about the direct practical applications of mental puzzles support theories that nutrition can influence mental fitness. Professor



Hans Eysenck, professor of psychology at the University of London, says: "I am afraid there is no evidence that anything you do can improve the performance of the brain. The only thing that has had positive results is dietary supplements, such as minerals. People who are deficient in vitamins or minerals could increase their IQ by improving their diet. That is well established." Some scientists believe simple nutritional supplements can dramatically improve the performance of undernourished brains.

In 1987 Larkhall Laboratories of Putney, south-west London, supplied vitamin and mineral tablets for a trial among Welsh schoolchildren. The results, published in *The Lancet*, suggested an increase of up to nine points in non-verbal intelligence among pupils who took them. The trial was subsequently challenged and criticized by other researchers and specialists, and in 1988, doctors at the Food and Nutritional Sciences Department of King's College, London published in the same journal the results of a similar trial among children which concluded that "no improvement in intellectual performance can be expected".

However, Dr David Benton, senior lecturer in psychology at Swansea University, has now replicated the results of the original Welsh study and will present his findings to a meeting of the British Psychological Association next month. "The results are that in boys who had a poor diet, defined as a diet which had fewer vitamins and minerals, there is a beneficial

response similar to the original study," he says.

The tests were carried out last summer in Belgium with the co-operation of the University of Louvain-Bruxelles. The 103 boys and 64 girls, all aged 13, from seven schools in French and Flemish-speaking areas, recorded their diets for 15 days and took intelligence tests before and after taking supplements supplied by Cyanamid, the US drug company which financed the project. Half took the genuine pills, and half unknowingly took placebos. The 45 per cent of boys who were on a bad or deficient diet showed a substantial improvement in non-verbal intelligence. For some reason not yet fully understood, girls on a deficient diet failed to show a similar improvement.

Dr Benton, anxious to avoid the criticisms levelled at the original study, is reluctant to conjecture on the implications for children worldwide. "The problem is that the need for minerals and vitamins is a very personal thing. A stressful week, or medication, might make a person need more. There is no doubt that in the group in Wales and the group in Belgium, vitamin and mineral supplements had an effect. What is uncertain is how general this effect would be, and how important it is."

Alcohol also has an effect on intelligence. Dr Sidney Rosalki, consultant in chemical pathology and human metabolism at the Royal Free Hospital, London, said research published in the *British Medical Journal* showed a relationship between even moderate drinking and mental impairment. "Seven

studies have found significant correlations between indices of alcohol consumption and measures of cognitive function among moderate drinkers," Dr Rosalki says. Most of the studies involved the ability to deal with abstract problems, problem solving and memory tests. Hand and mind co-ordination was also impaired.

Another study, in Australia, followed up 26 light to moderate drinkers who abstained for six months. The memories and verbal performance IQs of all 26 improved, although this might have been partly due to the improvements sometimes effected by the practice of intelligence tests.

Dr Rosalki explains that alcohol is normally oxidized in the liver and as a result of oxidation forms chemicals, including acetaldehyde, which circulate in the blood and can reach the brain. The acetaldehyde in large quantities can damage cell membranes. Alcohol can also impair the absorption and metabolism of vitamins, in particular Vitamin B1, which is important for the function of brain enzymes.

Dr Rosalki says that a minimum alcohol intake of 50g a day appears to be needed before structural damage in the brain can be observed, but other effects such as mental impairment can be observed at much lower intakes; drinking just three or four units a day could result in minor impairments to mental processes. There are 8g of alcohol to a unit, which is equivalent to a 4oz glass of wine, half a pint of normal

strength beer, or a single whisky.

Professor Stephen Rose, director of the Open University brain and behaviour research group, says: "Like many things, intelligence is hard to define, but easy to see when you observe it. At the moment I am watching my Burmese cat performing extremely intelligent behaviour. It is rather exquisitely picking up my pens, trying to write with them and then knocking them off the bench on which I am working."

The work his cat was interrupting is a highly technical scientific paper, the fruits of 10 years' work funded by the Medical Research Council and the Science Research Council, which he presented to the Cajal brain institute in Madrid yesterday, and which discloses new results of how a learning experience changes the biochemistry of the brain.

"The human brain is composed of about 10,000 million nerve cells, each of which connects with others. When learning takes place, some connections get strengthened and others weakened. The way to improve performance in intelligence tests such as the Tournament would be to practise similar tests and strengthen the relevant mental connections. People who want to be good at puzzles and crosswords have to learn how to do them."

According to Professor Eysenck, three mental components are involved in problem solving: the speed of mental processing, persistence, and the ability to check for errors. If intelligence is related to the ability to solve problems, this approach would be enough to exercise the brightest brain.

could cause a stroke. Quite a few people have died from that. You have to be careful to use goggles or sunglasses to prevent snow blindness. Equally important, you protect your face with a really effective sunblocking cream, both from the immediate risk of sunburn and the longer-term risk of skin cancer.

I drink alcohol in moderation. On expeditions we always take booze with us. If you are on an expedition, it is very, very nice just having a scotch last thing at night, though we tend not to take it above our base camp.

I am 55, and I am going to keep on climbing at least for another 10 or 15 years. You suddenly realize it is finite as you get over 50, but at the same time I think it is amazing how long you can keep climbing at a good level.

Interview by Pamela Nowicka

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Privilege to be sniffed at



Although members of Parliament may have lost one privilege this week — the chance to fly first-class on an economy-class ticket — a more ancient right remains: they are still entitled to free snuff. The snuff box is kept close to the Sergeant at Arms's chair at the entrance to the chamber, positioned so that Members can take a pinch to clear their heads before they debate important matters of state. The late Sir Gerald Nabarro used to inhale snuff with a flourish, and apparent relish, before taking his seat on the front bench below the gangway. It is reported that the equally flamboyant Sir Nicholas Fairbairn continues the tradition, and that recently, as he was doing so, he showered the fine powder over David Blunkett's luckless guide-dog, Uffa, who responded, as all inexperienced snuff takers do, by explosive sneezing.

The Government has recently had to decide whether taking snuff is a harmless, if eccentric, reminder of an earlier age, or whether it is a dangerous habit, likely to be exploited by the tobacco industry as an alternative outlet for their products as smoking becomes less fashionable. Notwithstanding the strong protests from American politicians representing tobacco-growing states, it has to some extent compromised and decided that the medical case against some forms of snuff-taking is strong; therefore from this month it has banned, under consumer protection legislation, the sale of oral snuff — but not, Sir Nicholas will be pleased to learn, of nasal snuff.



An editorial in the *British Medical Journal* has recently reviewed the use of snuff as a cigarette substitute. Snuff is classified medically as a smokeless tobacco. There are two forms of oral smokeless tobacco, chewing tobacco and oral snuff. Chewing tobacco, which is coarse, has to be chewed vigorously before it is spat out, a ritual that is unlikely to help it make a popular comeback. On the other hand the habit of taking oral snuff has spread rapidly in America, particularly among younger people, and especially those who already smoke cigarettes. It can be either dry or moist, and is held between the gum and cheek so that no chewing is necessary. Its recent surge in popularity has been due to its marketing in a sort of tea bag, as Skoal Bandits, as these removed much of the messiness of the habit, but delivered just as much nicotine to the blood stream as cigarettes.

As with cigarettes, addiction occurs. Oral snuff contains an appreciable quantity of the carcinogenic substance nitroamine, which is presumably a factor in the number of cases of cancer of the mouth which have been reported by the International Agency of Cancer Research, the United States department of health and the World Health Organization, to have been related to oral snuff-taking. In South East and Central Asia, where tobacco chewing is common, mouth cancers are frequently found, with their position often coinciding with the spot where the quid had been customarily held against the cheek or gum.



Sniffing snuff seems safer. Although tobacco-taking is related to cancer of the throat and gullet, the association is less clear with the nose and post-nasal sinuses. Some authors even claim that there is no relationship. But as the inhalation of other carcinogenic material, such as hardwood dust by carpenters, definitely causes nasopharyngeal cancer (tumours which grow in the cavities in and behind the nose), it would seem to be unlikely that snuff-taking was entirely without risk. Even so, Sir Nicholas and the whips can in all probability be reassured that the occasional pinch of snuff is unlikely to precipitate a by-election in Perth and Kinross or elsewhere.

Nuclear families



In his *BMJ* report, Professor Martin Gardner clearly demonstrates a link between young people at Sellafield who developed leukaemia or lymphoma, a malignant disease of the lymphatic system (best known as Hodgkin's disease), and the degree of exposure to radiation which their fathers had suffered while at work at the plant. The research was not unnaturally extremely disturbing to those fathers who had suffered total radiation doses of more than 100 millisieverts in any one year or had had more than 10 millisieverts in the six months before their wives conceived. The annual legal limit at the moment is 50mSv, and the recommended limit of the National Radiological Protection Board is 15mSv in any one year. The chance of children of men from these two high-risk groups at Sellafield developing leukaemia or lymphoma was shown by Prof Gardner to be increased sixfold, whereas other workers, or residents in the area, seemed to be safe. There was some suggestion from the statistics that it might be unwise to eat the local shellfish.

The extra dose which most of the workers in nuclear plants receive is smaller than that experienced in several other trades. Concorde flight crews, for instance, may well have a total annual body radiation dose up to five times that of the typical Sellafield worker, or over 10 times that of one from Dounreay. The radiation which flight crews on subsonic aircraft suffer annually is appreciably greater than that experienced by Dounreay workers, but rather less than that faced by those at Sellafield.

Pulse magazine highlights the contradiction between the now accepted association between the amount of exposure to radiation and the risk of having a child with leukaemia, and the lack of any such link in the 7,000 men who were followed up in Japan after they had suffered much larger radiation doses as a result of the atomic bombing. The authors conclude that a single large exposure is less likely to cause a gene mutation than smaller doses repeated over a period of time, resulting in unacceptably large accumulated exposures.

Pulse also raises the worrying thought that when parental mice have been experimentally exposed to X-rays, any inheritable tumours induced were found not only in the first generation but in the second, too. There is, fortunately, no certainty that men and mice will behave in the same way, but only time will show the extent of any damage which has been done by radiation at Sellafield to succeeding generations.

We are leaving for Tibet on April 24; we'll be there for six weeks, of which four weeks will be in the field, in

the middle of unknown mountains. There's just two of us going, which makes health particularly important — if one of us goes sick, it really kiboshes it for everyone.

I have basically got good health, and I think I slightly take it for granted. I don't hyper-train, but I keep a reasonable level of fitness throughout the year. I go running, walking or climbing most days when I am at home.

My wife is vegetarian, so at home we are totally vegetarian. When I am away I am a bit of an omnivore, but I have reduced my meat diet considerably. On the traditional expedition one tends to have an awful lot of freeze-dried foods, which I find I like less and less. So at base camp, on

What to eat in high society

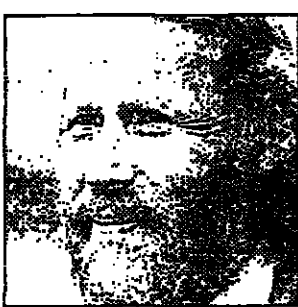
the approach, I try to use local food — but rice and dahl, not much meat.

Actually on the climb, where weight is at a premium, you need a high carbohydrate diet, so breakfast would probably be muesli. During the day we eat handfuls of nuts, a bit of chocolate, and the evening meal would be soup and then usually mashed potato powder made into mashed potato with cheese or tinned fish, or precooked rice.

The high carbohydrate content gives you instant energy. You don't need much in the way of protein because you don't absorb it well at altitude, and you can make up your protein when you get back down to base camp. You have to drink a lot because you



CHRIS BONINGTON



dehydrate a great deal — you have to drink seven or eight pints a day. The other thing which is very useful on the mountain is mineral replacements, which athletes use. Some of them are very tasty. When you are sweating a lot,

which you are at altitude, and drinking snow water, which has a very low mineral content, you really need these. Altitude has a generally debilitating effect. To become acclimatized you have to take your time, so you move up

gradually. The thing to do is to sleep quite low, then go high. The trouble is, once you are at about 18-19,000ft, your body is actually deteriorating, and at 24,000ft it is deteriorating very fast. You just get tired and tired and you don't recover when you are fatigued, so you have to hit a balance between becoming steadily acclimatized and not being up too high for too long.

One of the other things that happens is that the blood creates more red blood cells to cater for the lack of oxygen in the air. In some people, the body goes over the top and creates a dangerous number of red blood cells. The blood gets very thick and can start clotting and if a clot occurs in your heart, it could cause a heart attack, or in your brain it

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Soweto's Beverly Hills

The Soweto township to which Nelson Mandela returned last month has changed considerably in the 27 years of his imprisonment. In *The Times* on Saturday, Nicholas Beeston describes the scene. Outside Mr Mandela's home, a complex of villas, known as Beverly Hills,

THE TIMES ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

has sprouted to house the black elite of doctors, lawyers and businessmen. There is even an emerging class of "buppies", or black upwardly mobile professionals. Will the more prosperous blacks choose to stay, or move out when they have the chance? Beeston has some surprising answers.

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THE ARTS

A matter of dying

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

The BBC television schedulers are a run and unfeeling lot, filling their Wednesday evenings with junk shows like *Dallas*, for which most of the cast now seem to have risen especially if uneasily from the grave, or else screening aged re-runs of *Penelope* from *Heaven* while banishing major new documentary series to the grim wastelands of the early afternoon.

At 3 pm yesterday, for example, the newscaster Martyn Lewis started a six-programme sequence called *Living With Dying*, which examined the last great taboo in our society, that of death itself, and our willingness to make any but the most cursory of preparations for it.

The idea of a death workshop may sound macabre enough, but for Christians, Hinduists and others who see death as a kind of therapy for those who have watched others going into the ground or the flames — the chance to talk about it is actually very welcome at a time when society is still unwilling to discuss death only in the vaguest of terms.

Lewis also found people who have put off making their wills, for reasons ranging from superstition to inefficiency, and found time to warn those living in gay or lesbian relationships to be especially careful about protecting partners who will have no legal rights in the event of a sudden death without a proper will.

While *Q.E.D.* (BBC 1) sniffed around the Rotterdam police discovery that criminals can now be traced through their under-arm deodorants, or rather the lack thereof, *Antenna* (BBC 2) looked at the continuing reluctance of seat-belt wearers to become better drivers. Those who wear them now drive more dangerously in the belief that they are especially protected, while the more that pedestrians are herded into underground safety tunnels, the more they are inclined to run across motorways in search of a short cut.

Over on Channel 4, the arts programme *Signals* continues to prove week after week how unwise the network is to be closing it down after only two years. Last night's survey of how the big auction houses now dictate all trends in the painting world was one that *Ombay* or the *South Bank Show* at their considerable best would have been proud to network.

Lords Carrington and Gowrie, on behalf of their respective Sobieski and Christies empires, held up well against some vociferous critics, but we were left in no doubt that art is now more of a commerce than a calling.

Genius among the skeletons

Richard Morrison explains why the South Bank is suddenly interested in a little known composer with a spicy background called Karol Szymanowski



The symphonic world was crazy about Gustav Mahler (above): will Szymanowski (right), with his mysterious past, be a worthy successor?

The symphony orchestras urgently need to discover another great composer. Go back 50 years, and the ideal of a fine orchestral concert might be Toscanini conducting Beethoven, or Bruno Walter conducting Mozart. Now, as the original-instrument ensembles claim classical repertoire persistently and persuasively, Mozart and even Beethoven are increasingly deemed "old limits" to the symphony orchestras.

Go back 15 years, and the symphonic world was crazy about Mahler. His music was noisy and rich in angst; marvellous for record companies wanting to show off their latest audio technology and conductors keen to flaunt their choreographic virility. Mahler gave music critics the chance to play at being psycho-analysts, and vice versa. He wrote tunes, but had interesting modern hangups — a marketing man's dream.

But our concert halls and record catalogues have become saturated with Mahler. It is the *Casablanca* syndrome: you do not actually need to see the film, because you can replay all the scenes in your head. The problem is, when people start replaying Mahler in their heads, a great many musicians will be out of a job.

Bruckner was once thought a suitable alternative, but he led too blameless a life to grip the fevered modern imagination. More to the point, his music sent audiences to sleep. The neurotic and grandiose Elgar would be perfect, except that his appeal seems to stop at Dover. Tchaikovsky is considered too hackneyed; Bartók, Stravinsky and the other 20th-century giants still do not guarantee big enough audiences.

What the orchestras need is a composer born in the late 19th century who wrote brilliantly colourful music, surging with Romantic passion and magnificent tunes, yet also containing some promising enigmas.

A composer who comes complete with a cupboard of skeletons to excite the puritan: a tortured homosexual in an unsympathetic climate; an aristocrat given a rough ride in a revolutionary age; a spendthrift frittering away a fortune on a complex private life; an academic executing some classic back-stabbing manoeuvres on colleagues; a man, lame from childhood, doomed by tuberculosis to an early grave. In short, they need Karol Szymanowski.

Or so the South Bank Centre believes. This Saturday, it launches a three-month concert series entitled "Poland's last romantic"

The inspiration of Karol Szymanowski. To describe a man who died in 1937 as Poland's last romantic suggests that someone at the Festival Hall has never met any Poles. But the enterprise should not be mocked: it will give Szymanowski's symphonies, concertos, songs, chamber music and his mystical opera *King Roger* their greatest exposure ever. If he has not caught the hearts and minds of London music-lovers by June, he never will.

The South Bank, in conjunction with Sony, has even produced a free "sampler" cassette, a promotional tape which the box office is giving away to whet the punter's appetite. "We feel that the music will sell itself when people get a chance to hear it," says the South Bank's director of marketing, Mike McCart — clearly one of nature's optimists.

One hopes he is right, because the figure of Szymanowski con-

stitutes an unlikely but crucial test for what might grandly be called the "South Bank philosophy". At the Festival Hall, they believe that a journey of adventure and discovery lies waiting for audiences, if only they have the nerve to sample hitherto unexplored pockets of repertoire. This is what the newly chosen resident orchestra is supposed to do.

An alternative philosophy, more cynical and gloomy, has already been adopted *de facto* by the multinational record companies. It is that any classical music worth discovering has already been discovered, performed, recorded, and probably emblazoned on the front of T-shirts too. So the future consists of endlessly repeated cycles of a static repertoire, varied only by increasingly microscopic differences in interpretation, and by

the amount of crass hype bestowed upon pretty teenage prodigies masquerading as virtuosos.

So can Szymanowski pull it off for the South Bank idealists? A glowing endorsement from his own countrymen may not be the most objective assessment, but it is a start.

Witold Lutoslawski, generally considered the finest present-day Polish composer, told *The Times*: "When I was 11, I heard for the first time Szymanowski's Third Symphony. For me, it was as if a gate had been opened into a fantastic garden, unknown to me before. Afterwards I ran home and spent days trying to recapture those sounds on the piano. It was as though I had been drugged, and for several weeks I went around in a state of shock."

Another present-day Polish composer, Andrzej Panufnik, recalled that Szymanowski took on

"the task of trying single-handedly to bring the excessively backward Polish school of composition up to date". To achieve that, he did admittedly indulge in a magpie-like tendency to borrow other composers' styles. That probably accounts for one's feeling of familiarity, even when listening to a Szymanowski score for the first time: the mystic ecstasy pinched from Scriabin, the lush orchestral effects from Strauss, the sophisticated treatment of folk-songs learnt from Stravinsky, and so on.

Nevertheless, in his best works — the *Sabat Mater*, the violin concertos and *King Roger* — Szymanowski grips the listener's attention superbly, with or without a little help from his friends. Having the misfortune to be born in the same year as Stravinsky and Kodály, he was overshadowed even in his own century year. Perhaps his time has finally come.

Sent on eagle's wings

CONCERT

Hilary Finch

RPO/Temirkanov Barban

One of Tchaikovsky's earliest birthday presents, in the year of the 150th anniversary of his birth, was Evgeny Kissin's performance on Tuesday of his First Piano Concerto. It may well also turn out to be one of the best.

The 19-year-old Moscow-born pianist takes a Herculean view of the work. It begins, perhaps, with a determination to compensate for his own diminutive physical presence: the whole body is put deliberately and highly effectively into action to power the massive opening chords; the entire spinal column and balance of the legs determines the weight and clarity of his springing octaves.

But it goes much further than mere physical prowess. Indeed, virtuosity seemed a by-product, albeit a marvellous one, of a reading which was as big in its thinking, as long-sighted in its goals and as sure of its structural framework as the work itself. Kissin's is the sort of playing that convinces the listener (perhaps even deceptively so) of the right-headedness of the work.

There are, for instance, the chains of sequences taking off with eagles' wings; there is the confidence with which the piano takes the lead without ever needing to drive the development forward; and there is the instinctive understanding of the closed, obsessive quality of much of the rhythmic writing in the concerto's slow movement.

The coda, above all, vindicated Kissin's approach. His achievement, under the sympathetic baton of Yuri Temirkanov, was to find its exact proportion in terms of pace, weight and timbre: the balance was precisely struck, the evolution of the entire work sealed.

Kissin's playing seemed, in turn, to stimulate many of the concerto's own soloists. There were some particularly fine flute phrases, which went on to be the glory of the extracts from Act II of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*.

Temirkanov is at his best as a man of the theatre, and the physical delight in the rhythms and movement of this music was communicated irresistibly to his audience.

Fright at the opera

OPERA

Adrian Dannatt

Die Meistersinger
Théâtre Châtelet

The roll-call of controversial Wagner productions is only matched by the cat-calls of the Parisian audience, and the two have come together, explosively, with this new production. It is a long time since this reviewer has enjoyed the frisson of so many whistles, boos and shouts of "merde!" in the middle of the music, or witnessed that historical rarity, a genuine punch-up in the stalls.

Nobody doubted the vocal splendours of José van Dam as Sachs, Lucia Popp as Eva, or the gutsy musical direction of Marek Janowski. The outrage belongs entirely to Claude Régy, with his singular interpretation of the work. Far from assuming, as the rest of the world does, that *Die Meistersinger* is Wagner's comedy, Régy has discovered it as a dark, mysterious tragedy.

Like all revisionist directors, he had in-depth research and source material to back up his interpretation. But though *Meistersinger* is undoubtedly a darker piece than usually played, Régy's symbolism is often ludicrously over-the-top. If the ritualistic, quasi-fascist masculinity of the master singers themselves is well emphasized by the gravity of the production, other subtleties of tone are lost.

Régy has turned the opera into a vast hymn to the Judaeo-Christian

dark ages, complete with crucifixion, rain and fire. Roberto Placé's starkly minimalist set contains the action within a giant cube, with everyone dressed in shades of Luftwaffe grey, apart from Sachs. There is also much nudity, enormous chains, an out-sized skull, and stone tablets carried on and off stage, accompanied by an huge gold throne and silver ladder.

The lighting and sets are exceptionally beautiful, with an austere sophistication guaranteed to infuriate those expecting doublets, hose and tankards of frothing jollity. The final scene, with the spotlight shining against an endlessly receding vista of stairway and massed choirs of grey, matches the grandeur of the music with an awe-inspiring power.

Such a bare production, abstract as music itself, rather than diverting attention from the opera, places an unusual emphasis upon the music and singing to the exclusion of all else, an emphasis rewarded here.

But however dramatic the stage may look, it has precious little drama on it between the symbolic high-points. Act III undoubtedly drags, and Régy's tendency to build every act to a climax of visual effects leaves their opening hour or so with little relief.

Perhaps this opera cannot bear the weight of so much heavy-handed symbolism, and perhaps Régy's interpretation is open to accusations of over-intellectualization. But this *Meistersinger* is worth more than screams of derision. Indeed, for those who do not favour on-stage funny-stuff it is a welcome relief, proof that a touch of seriousness need not be fatal. All Régy has to do now is produce *The Ring* as a *Student Prince* tavern romp, and his notoriety will be assured.

Stubble thrasher

ROCK

Jasper Rees

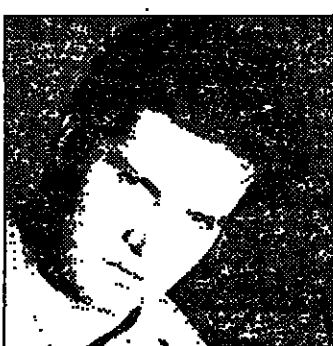
Lloyd Cole
Hammersmith Odeon

"Talk among yourselves for a moment," said Lloyd Cole in performance at the Hammersmith Odeon. He might have added "while I play a few thrash metal numbers from my new album". All artists like a change of direction, but not all their fans do.

In the days when Cole used to wear his brain on his sleeve, he was called an adolescent show-off. It would appear that he has taken the ribbing to heart. Having retained only keyboardist Blair Cowan from the Combinations — the Scottish band with whom he made three very presentable, if undergratuitous albums — and replaced them with a five-strong crew of more hard-edged musicians he picked up in New York (including Matthew Sweet on bass and Robert Quine on lead guitar), Cole seems determined to play the post-punk rocker.

There is no harm done in his trying to look the part (enter stubble, shades and floppy bob), but when he tries to sound the part things go wrong (exit melodic subtlety of old).

More than once he defiantly introduced songs as ones that he liked even if no one else did ("what the hell — it's my concert"), and he avoided one of the favourites that



Lloyd Cole: post-pimple rocker

most of the audience encored him for ("I'm not gonna play all of 'em"), choosing instead to exit on "Mercy Killing", which is not much more than a dense cluster of decibels. To quote Cole against himself, he seemed to be cutting off his nose to spite his face.

If he failed to end with "Forest Fire", at least he opened with "Perfect Skin", into which he segued after a short sharp cover of Paul McCartney's "Why Don't We Do It In The Road". Pumped-up and feed-backed, it was a vociferous statement of intent.

Honourably excepting "A Long Way Down" and "Don't Look Back", two of the choicest compositions from the new album, it was Cole's old songs which gave shape to the show — "Mainstream" and "Are You Ready To Be Heartbroken?" — and even older songs by singers Cole seems to have appointed as his forebears: Presley's "Little Sister" and Dylan's "She Belongs To Me".

Cole has declared himself keen to produce Dylan's next album, so singing one of his songs came across not so much as an act of idolatry as an audition. On the strength of his new adult sound, one would not like to bet that he would get the job.

Not quite the dream ticket

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Bus Stop
Lyric Theatre

DONALD COOPER



Jerry Hall: a traffic-stopper

long, lissom Hall could be forced on to a bus by Shaun Cassidy's slight Bo, with his clean jeans, shampooed hands, and distinctly indoors machismo.

Nor has Hall been visibly

buffeted by the all-American elements. She is forlorn, dreamy, languid, world-weary, and sports a plausible Southern accent; but she scarcely has the blend of hardness and stricken helplessness you might expect of someone whose background is white-trash hill country, whose short adulthood has consisted of amusing drunks in and out of tacky nightclubs, and whose career prospects would seem confined to serving in a dimly lit bar. Hall's brave if muted attempt to pass off *Vanity Fair* as the *National Enquirer* just does not pass muster.

Partly as a result, Inge emerges as little more than the soft-centred laureate of mid-Western folkiness. There must always be something irritatingly homespun about lines like (this from the inevitable sheriff), "Man don't deserve the things he loves unless he kin be humble about getting them".

There will always be something sentimental in the notion that this gruff wisdom could convert raw, meaty Bo into someone tender enough to win over winning Cherie. Yet a tougher production than Phil Oesterman's might show that, in his wistful way, Inge understood the pinch of the heart and ache of the parts below.

As it is, only a subplot, about an ageing lecher's sly flirtation with an ancient waitress, shows us anything of this darker Inge. Then, David Emery does give us a glimpse of the humiliation and self-disgust behind his florid grins and fruity chuckles. But it is not enough to save a flat, lax evening.

Partial portrait of the Forties

Jeremy Kingston

In Pursuit of
the English
Lyric, Hammersmith

If the Savoy Theatre had had the grace to catch fire a week or two earlier, *Thérèse* would not have found itself stranded in No Man's Land, committed to move from Hammersmith yet denied entrance to the West End. Its place in the Lyric's main house has been filled by the Cut and Thrust Company, climbing swiftly from the Studio Theatre downstairs with this production playing here till Saturday, the excellent *Hangover Square* next week, and *In Pursuit of the English* again the week after.

The company have evidently bedded themselves further into their roles than when Benedict Nightingale reviewed the production in January, yet this adaptation by Katie Campbell of Doris Lessing's autobiographical memoir still seems curiously empty.

Of atmosphere there is plenty. In Doris's war-damaged room in

the East End the fallen plaster exposes a damp brick-work; the look of the Forties is on display in the floral housecoats and padded shoulders, and the predominantly awful working-class people she chooses to meet are prejudiced, petty and a grievous disappointment to a left-winger witnessing a Labour government at work.

The trouble lies in the meek and mild character of the fictional Doris, played by Melanie Jessop with wide eyes and wide, incredulous smile. Slumming it with a squabbling family who cage her fags, covet her alyons and hoard

unwanted tenants as mercilessly as a Rachman, she tolerates everything with an uncommittal interest. Not even Isherwood was so detached. The scenes she selects to record disclose her disapproval, but her disinclination to argue creates a moral void.

For a play set precisely in 1949, Matthew Francis's production could have chosen his pop songs to make tart comments on the action — no "Candy Kisses", "So Tired" or "Dear Hearts and Gentle People" — but within the occasional scene his cast run up some decent dramatic exchanges.

The sensual fondling Sheila Reid's dreamy Flo gives her weight-lifter son (Ben Porter) is intriguing; and both Pippa Guard's shop-girl Rose, stupidly clinging to her useless man, and Celia Laing's splendidly contemptuous Midlands tart are clever, convincing performances.

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THE ARTS/FILMS

David Robinson reviews releases including *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Glory*, and *Dancin' Thru the Dark*

Hollywood's slaves to war

The current phase in Hollywood of titillating the national conscience with guilt for Vietnam began back in 1986 with Oliver Stone's *Platoon*. After taking time out to exorcise the sins of *Wall Street* (1987) and *Talk Radio* (1988), Stone now resumes the Vietnam flagellation with *Born on the Fourth of July* (18, Empire 1, Screen-on-the-Green).

This time his subject is the lost generation that served and suffered and emerged disillusioned, and to which he himself belongs. The script is based on the memoirs of Ron Kovic, who co-authored the script with Stone. Kovic, played by Tom Cruise, is first seen as a wide-eyed innocent, elated by patriotism, going straight from college into the Marines, the volunteer corps that represents for Americans the highest ideal of military glory.

The glory swiftly tarnishes in the Asian swamps. Kovic is devastated when he accidentally shoots one of his buddies and finds that no-one cares to know. In time, he is wounded himself, and returns home paralysed from the waist down, humiliated by the maze of catheters that replace his destroyed urinary system.

He is bewildered by the changes in America, with its vociferous anti-war movement. He passes



Marching to battle: *Glory*'s 54th Regiment; right, Tom Cruise as the wheel-chair bound Vietnam veteran

from his first disillusion and disorientation to become a charismatic leader of the Veterans Against Vietnam movement.

Stone spares us nothing: the horrors of the front; the overcrowded military hospitals where helpless patients lie among vermin and their own excrement; violent police action against dissident groups; above all, the pain of recognizing that the faith and the sacrifice were all wasted.

Nowadays, of course, such statements do not require great liberal courage. Peace is fashionable and all this is history. Vietnam is more than 20 years away; the veterans are in their 40s (Stone is 44; Kovic, 45); the

generation which goes to the cinema now has grown-up since then and can see Vietnam objectively as the folly of their fathers.

They can, though, identify with Tom Cruise, the cleanest and brightest of the new generation, and since *Top Gun*, the all-American ideal. He is a capable as well as an attractive actor, and even without his changing hairstyles, convincingly traces the psychological progression from golden college boy to stony-eyed liberal demagogue. Both he and the film hit a difficult patch with a drop-out sequence in a Mexican whore-house, but they recuperate for the finale of a film which skilfully applies massive produc-

tion resources and dramatic power to a story of self-discovery.

Glory (15, Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue) recalls another uncomfortable piece of America's history, and the forced maturing of another young man. 50,000 young Americans died in Vietnam; 700,000 in the Civil War. Edward Zwick's film recreates the story of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers — the first black regiment, raised in 1862 — and the 23-year-old officer, Robert Gould Shaw, who was given the task of forming it and commanding it.

Zwick has not, perhaps, the grandeur of concept which must be admired in Oliver Stone; but the period and events are lovingly,



Battling heroines

In the footsteps of the educated Rita and Shirley Valentine, comes another Willy Russell heroine, battling free from the oppressions of a provincial life that is (in Russell's vision) hopeless, male-dominated, without horizons for the imagination or ambition.

Dancin' Thru the Dark (15, Warner West End), adapted from Russell's play, *Saga and Hens*, is an account of a night in a Liverpool club where Dave (Conrad Nelson) has his stag party and, by mischance, his fiancée, Linda (Claire Hackett) chooses to take her hen-party.

To complicate things, Linda's old flame Peter (Con O'Neill) is in town for a one-night gig with his pop group. While Dave lies paralytic drunk in a lavatory cubicle, Linda sees in Peter what might have been, and the chance of escape.

In previous films written by Russell, we have only glimpsed odd figures from provincial life. The whole panorama shown here is unsparring in its picture of ignorance, cruelty, jealousy, lust, prurience, prudery, drunkenness, pretension. Only Peter and Linda are allowed some better qualities, a Merseyside Romeo and Juliet.

The text pre-dates *Educating Rita* and *Shirley Valentine* and is

much more sketchy. It is conceived as a musical, and Russell's own compositions sound still more archaic than the date of the piece, adding to the sense of Liverpool as a place that time forgot. *Dancin' Thru the Dark* is the first film by the theatre director, Michael Ockrent, to whom credit must go for the well-matched performances by a largely unknown cast.

The method of Bertrand Blier's comedies is to over-turn expectations — as in *Tenue de Soiree*, where he had the ox-like Gerard Depardieu in desperate romantic pursuit of a small married man.

In *Trop Belle Pour Toi* (18, Lumière, Chelsea Cinema, Camden Plaza) Depardieu's predicament, as the simple synopsis explains, is that "I married my mistress and only afterwards met my wife. This is why all is not well."

A successful car dealer with an exquisite and devoted wife (Carole Bouquet), he is the envy of all his friends. Not even he can comprehend how his head is turned by

a plump, homely secretary, played by Josiane Balasko. The simple device of relating the banal incidents of infidelity, while reversing the cliché characters, is both exquisitely comic and satirically revealing in its commentary on marital relations.

Skilfully written, structured and shot, the film moves smoothly from banal reality to the surreal, from domestic comedy to scenes of true anguish, like the climactic dinner-table confrontation of the rivals. The performances are finely calculated, the ladies nicely off-set by Depardieu, in his growing confusion and final defeat.

The National Film Theatre is currently presenting a special tribute to the distribution company, Gala, which, for the last 40 years, has been bringing foreign-language films to British screens.

House of Bernarda Alba (15, Cannon Premiere), is not perhaps one of the most sparkling of Gala's most recent releases. For literati, it offers a loyal reading of Lorca's most famous play, with an excellent cast of actresses; but Mario Camus, somewhat misinterpreting Jean Renoir's dictum that "all that is projected on a screen becomes a film" has shot it in a pedestrian made-for-TV style, which demonstrates that in films, a good text is not enough.

Back to the future

Wilf Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute, defends his proposals for the National Film Archive



Stevenson: challenging times

In 1995, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the cinema. This will inevitably raise public consciousness of the British Film Institute's work and result in an unprecedented demand for access to early film and television material by documentary makers.

This welcome interest in the British Film Institute and its collections comes at a time when the Institute has been giving consideration to the implementation of its latest corporate plan. In the National Film Archive we have significant holdings of pre-1950 newsreels, every foot of film produced by such major sources of documentary material as the National Coal Board; an excellent cross section of television advertisements and political propaganda films from right, left and centre; and much, much more.

The Archive holds 79 per cent of all British feature films produced since 1929 and its collection of American feature films equals the largest holdings in the United States. In addition, since 1981 we have been recording off-air a significant selection of ITV and Channel 4 programmes which, together with our earlier

sible at present. Problems will arise when researchers start making requests for specific extracts, for then the responsibility for safeguarding the heritage will clash directly with the desire to make it accessible.

All the requests could be met if we had sufficient resources: our aim must be to have a preservation copy, intermediate printing material and viewing copies of every item in the collections. At the moment, we do not have

them, and difficult decisions seem unavoidable.

However it is also vital that the BFI as a whole is in a position to respond to this century. Publication of books and articles, educational support, NFT screenings, MOMI exhibition activities and new research programmes need to be mounted to integrate the approach and to maximize the opportunity.

The BFI has a well-earned reputation of meeting such challenges in full. With a new curator, and with the assistance of his predecessor David Francis (who has accepted a research fellowship with the Institute) we intend to develop policies to resolve the competing demands.

Given the time that will be required to research these issues, it is surely responsible of us to put on the agenda the scale and scope of the BFI's remit in archival matter. It is only by debating the issues now that we will be able to decide on the campaign that should be mounted to shift current government thinking. And it is only by planning now for the events we should be undertaking in 1995 that we will be in a position to raise the necessary funds.



Errol Flynn: roguish twinkle

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

THE BEST OF ERROL FLYNN (Warner): Package of four from the days when Flynn swished the best buckle in Hollywood. *Captain Blood* (1935, PG) offers romance and piracy on the high seas; *Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938, U) boasts jolly colour and a memorable Korngold score. *The Private Lives of Elizabeth*

Swashing a buckle

VIDEOBOX
Geoff Brown

and *Essex* (1939, U) gets bogged down in worthy words, though Bette Davis is a Queen to be reckoned with; the epic Western *They Died With Their Boots On* (1941, U) features Flynn twinkling roguishly as General Custer.

DEAD RECKONING (RCA/Columbia, U): Humphrey Bogart as a World War Two veteran, whose search for a missing buddy leads him to a teasing femme fatale (Elizabeth Scott). Too beetle-browed in tone to join the top film noir classics; tasty viewing nonetheless. Directed by John Cromwell. 1947.

FRIDAY THE 13TH PART VII (CIC, 18): Subtitled "Jason Takes Manhattan", though some might wish the murderous ghost would take a permanent vacation instead. Mindless gore, staged with a trifle more flair than usual by tyro director Rob Hedden. 1989.

JAMES DEAN — THE FIRST AMERICAN TEENAGER (Warner, 15): Ray Connolly's shallow portrait of the 1950s icon, co-produced by David Putnam. Arcane clips of Dean's TV and advertising work are tantalizing, but the interviews with old pals shed little light on the star's continuing appeal. 1975.

ROSELYNE AND THE LI (Palace, 15): Lavish absurdity from *Diva* director Jean-Jacques Beineix, following the fortunes of two youngsters (Isabelle Pasco, Gerard Sanchez) hellbent on becoming lion-tamers. Training scenes have an undoubted fascination, but the film's grandiose trappings are just silly. 1989.

RUNNING ON EMPTY (Guild, 15): Sidney Lumet's powerful family melodrama with a political tinge. Christine Lahti and Judy Hirsch play anti-Vietnam activists still on the run from the FBI: River Phoenix is the son anxious to lead his own life. 1989.

THE WOLVES OF WILLOWHAY CHASE (Entertainment in Video, PG): Rousing British fantasy adventure from Joan Aiken's novel, with Stephanie Beacham as an odious governess from the imaginary reign of James II, terrorizing her young charges. Stuart Orme directs. 1989.

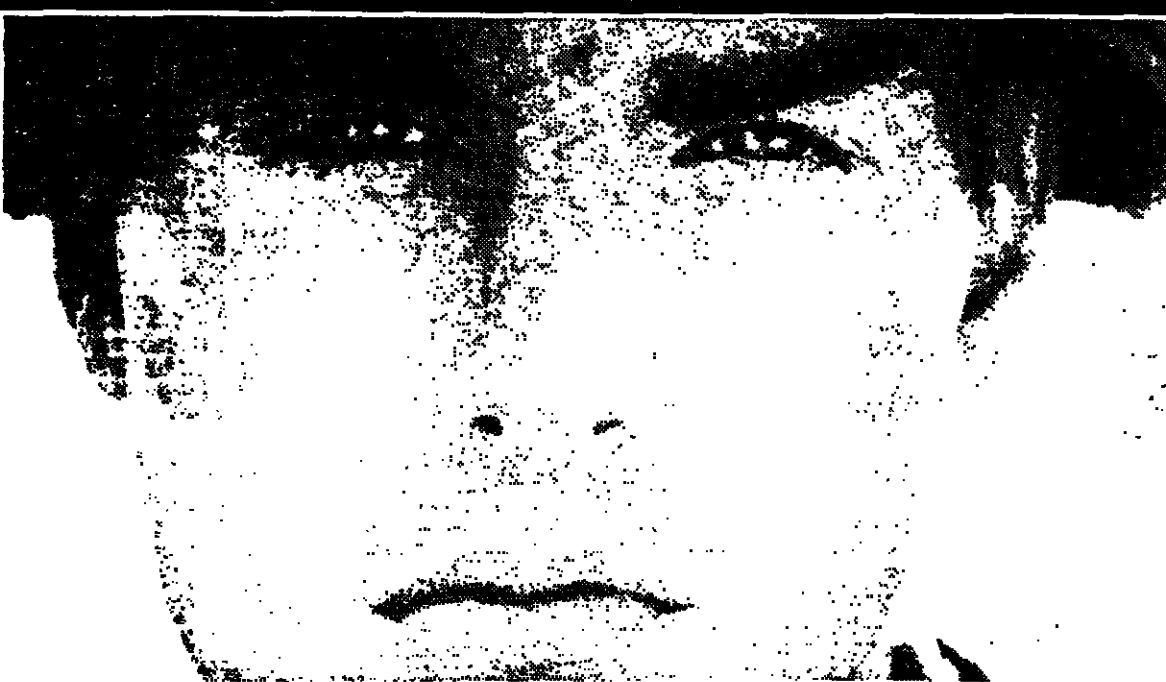
WOODY ALLEN (Warner): Four-pack from the writer-director's less anguished days. The manic *Bananas* (1971, 15) finds him mused up in a Latin-American revolution; *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex* (1972, 18) offers uneven jokes about the eternal topic; *Sleeper* (1973, PG) is a joyous science-fiction lark, talk nicely balanced with visual slapstick. Finally *Annie Hall* (1977, 15): not just gags, but characters, relationships, and Diane Keaton.

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256-257, 258-259, 260-261, 262-263, 264-265, 266-267, 268-269, 270-271, 272-273, 274-275, 276-277, 278-279, 280-281, 282-283, 284-285, 286-287, 288-289, 290-291, 292-293, 294-295, 296-297, 298-299, 300-301, 302-303, 304-305, 306-307, 308-309, 310-311, 312-313, 314-315, 316-317, 318-319, 320-321, 322-323, 324-325, 326-327, 328-329, 330-331, 332-333, 334-335, 336-337, 338-339, 340-341, 342-343, 344-345, 346-347, 348-349, 350-351, 352-353, 354-355, 356-357, 358-359, 360-361, 362-363, 364-365, 366-367, 368-369, 370-371, 372-373, 374-375, 376-377, 378-379, 380-381, 382-383, 384-385, 386-387, 388-389, 390-391, 392-393, 394-395, 396-397, 398-399, 400-401, 402-403, 404-405, 406-407, 408-409, 410-411, 412-413, 414-415, 416-417, 418-419, 420-421, 422-423, 424-425, 426-427, 428-429, 430-431, 432-433, 434-435, 436-437, 438-439, 440-441, 442-443, 444-445, 446-447, 448-449, 450-451, 452-453, 454-455, 456-457, 458-459, 460-461, 462-463, 464-465, 466-467, 468-469, 470-471, 472-473, 474-475, 476-477, 478-479, 480-481, 482-483, 484-485, 486-487, 488-489, 490-491, 492-493, 494-495, 496-497, 498-499, 500-501, 502-503, 504-505, 506-507, 508-509, 510-511, 512-513, 514-515, 516-517, 518-519, 520-521, 522-523, 524-525, 526-527, 528-529, 530-531, 532-533, 534-535, 536-537, 538-539, 540-541, 542-543, 544-545, 546-547, 548-549, 550-551, 552-553, 554-555, 556-557, 558-559, 560-561, 562-563, 564-565, 566-567, 568-569, 570-571, 572-573, 574-575, 576-577, 578-579, 580-581, 582-583, 584-585, 586-587, 588-589, 590-591, 592-593, 594-595, 596-597, 598-599, 600-601, 602-603, 604-605, 606-607, 608-609, 610-611, 612-613, 614-615, 616-617, 618-619, 620-621, 622-623, 624-625, 626-627, 628-629, 630-631, 632-633, 634-635, 636-637, 638-639, 640-641, 642-643, 644-645, 646-647, 648-649, 650-651, 652-653, 654-655, 656-657, 658-659, 660-661, 662-663, 664-665, 666-667, 668-669, 670-671, 672-673, 674-675, 676-677, 678-679, 680-681, 682-683, 684-685, 686-687, 688-689, 690-691, 692-693, 694-695, 696-697, 698-699, 700-701, 702-703, 704-705, 706-707, 708-709, 710-711, 712-713, 714-715, 716-717, 718-719, 720-721, 722-723, 724-725, 726-727, 728-729, 730-731, 732-733, 734-735, 736-737, 738-739, 740-741, 742-743, 744-745, 746-747, 748-749, 750-751, 752-753, 754-755, 756-757, 758-759, 760-761, 762-763, 764-765, 766-767, 768-769, 770-771, 772-773, 774-775, 776-777, 778-779, 780-781, 782-783, 784-785, 786-787, 788-789, 790-791, 792-793, 794-795, 796-797, 798-799, 800-801, 802-803, 804-805, 806-807, 808-809, 810-811, 812-813, 814-815, 816-817, 818-819, 820-821, 822-823, 824-825, 826-827, 828-829, 830-831, 832-833, 834-835, 836-837, 838-839, 840-841, 842-843, 844-845, 846-847, 848-849, 850-851, 852-853, 854-855, 856-857, 858-859, 860-861, 862-863, 864-865, 866-867, 868-869, 870-871, 872-873, 874-875, 876-877, 878-879, 880-881, 882-883, 884-885, 886-887, 888-889, 890-891, 892-893, 894-895, 896-897, 898-899, 900-901, 902-903, 904-905, 906-907, 908-909, 910-911, 912-913, 914-915, 916-917, 918-919, 920-921, 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1118-1119, 1120-1121, 1122-1123, 1124-1125, 1126-1127, 1128-1129, 1130-1131, 1132-1133, 1134-1135, 1136-1137, 1138-1139, 1140-1141, 1142-1143, 1144-1145, 1146-1147, 1148-1149, 1150-1151, 1152-1153, 1154-1155, 1156-1157, 1158-1159, 1160-1161, 1162-1163, 1164-1165, 1166-1167, 1168-1169, 1170-1171, 1172-1173, 1174-1175, 1176-1177, 1178-1179, 1180-1181, 1182-1183, 1184-1185, 1186-1187, 1188-1189, 1190-1191, 1192-1193, 1194-1195, 1196-1197, 1198-1199, 1200-1201, 1202-1203, 1204-1205, 1206-1207, 1208-1209, 1210-1211, 1212-1213, 1214-1215, 1216-1217, 1218-1219, 1220-1221, 1222-1223, 1224-1225, 1226-1227, 1228-1229, 1230-1231, 1232-1233, 1234-1235, 1236-1237, 1238-1239, 1240-1241, 1242-1243, 1244-1245, 1246-1247, 1248-1249, 1250-1251, 1252-1253, 1254-1255, 1256-1257, 1258-1259, 1260-1261, 1262-1263, 1264-1265, 1266-1267, 1268-1269, 1270-1271, 1272-1273, 1274-1275, 1276-1277, 1278-1279, 1280-1281, 1282-1283, 1284-1285, 1286-1287, 1288-1289, 1290-1291, 1292-1293, 1294-1295, 1296-1297, 1298-1299, 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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Women in a man's world

Peter Waymark

● Taking its cue from the miserably small representation of women in the House of Commons (42 MPs out of 650), A Safe Sex for a Safe Seat (BBC2, 9.30pm) looks at the selection process in the Conservative constituency of High Peak in Derbyshire. The reason for the paucity of women in Parliament, it is suggested, is not that voters don't like them but that so few are chosen to stand. Even women on selection committees, it seems, are likely to choose men. Teresa Gorman, who has managed to be both selected and elected, reckons that even if they choose a woman, local parties are really looking for an imitation man. The



Hopeful: prospective candidate Cheryl Gillan is on the shortlist (BBC2, 9.30pm)

deeper the voice, she claims, the better the chances. To their credit, none of the three female hopefuls featured in Ruth Jackson's 40 Minutes film take her advice. Their progress is followed as the original 270 applicants are whittled down to a shortlist of 22 and an even shorter list of three, from which the prospective candidate emerges. Viewers can amuse themselves placing bets on the chances of Cheryl (pronounced Sheryl) Gillan, former chairman of the Sheffield City Council with forthright views on dog dirt, and Melinda Libby, the youngest of the trio at 31, single and in advertising. With the camera permitted to eavesdrop on the interviews, much fascinating footage emerges. There is nothing like watching someone else going through the mill. But, given the premise of the programme, it would have been interesting to have heard from the selection committee how much the sex of the candidates determined their choice.

● After the raucous excesses of some of the Comic Strip offerings, Spaghetti Hoops (BBC2, 9.00pm) seems determined to go the other way. The pace is leisurely, the decision level is low. Almost no one overacts, not Alexei Sayle, not Nigel Planer, in the central role of an Italian banker who steals 200 million and, with two hit men in pursuit, turns up in London. This curiously subdued piece tilts at a number of targets, from the Freemasons to Perrier water (though it was clearly in the can before the recent Perrier scare), while resisting the temptation to dwell on the obvious jokes. The humour is so quiet at times that you can almost forget that this is a spoof.

6.00 **Coffee**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Meyer. Includes regulars: sports information, regional news, weather and travel details. Plus a look at the morning newspapers with Paul Cellier.
6.55 **Regional news and weather**
7.00 **News and weather** followed by Open Air. Viewers comment on the Welsh C4 channel, S4C.
7.05 **Robert Kilroy-Silk** chairs a studio discussion on a matter of topical interest.
7.10 **News and weather** followed by *Going for Gold* (r).

10.25 **Children's BBC**, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with *Playdays* (r) 10.50 *Rebound* (r) 10.55 *Playdays* (r) 11.00 *Rebound* (r) 11.05 *Playdays* (r) 11.10 *Rebound* (r) 11.15 *Playdays* (r) 11.20 *Rebound* (r) 11.25 *Playdays* (r) 11.30 *Rebound* (r) 11.35 *Playdays* (r) 11.40 *Rebound* (r) 11.45 *Playdays* (r) 11.50 *Rebound* (r) 11.55 *Playdays* (r) 12.00 *Rebound* (r) 12.05 *Playdays* (r) 12.10 *Rebound* (r) 12.15 *Playdays* (r) 12.20 *Rebound* (r) 12.25 *Playdays* (r) 12.30 *Rebound* (r) 12.35 *Playdays* (r) 12.40 *Rebound* (r) 12.45 *Playdays* (r) 12.50 *Rebound* (r) 12.55 *Playdays* (r) 1.00 *Rebound* (r) 1.05 *Playdays* (r) 1.10 *Rebound* (r) 1.15 *Playdays* (r) 1.20 *Rebound* (r) 1.25 *Playdays* (r) 1.30 *Rebound* (r) 1.35 *Playdays* (r) 1.40 *Rebound* (r) 1.45 *Playdays* (r) 1.50 *Rebound* (r) 1.55 *Playdays* (r) 2.00 *Rebound* (r) 2.05 *Playdays* (r) 2.10 *Rebound* (r) 2.15 *Playdays* (r) 2.20 *Rebound* (r) 2.25 *Playdays* (r) 2.30 *Rebound* (r) 2.35 *Playdays* 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Storm-lashed pier in the frontline as Hastings battles the waves

Engineers call for a new approach to sea defences

By Mark Souster and Robin Stacey

Engineers worked round the clock yesterday to plug the 200 metre gap in the sea defences at Towyn, North Wales, with five-tonne blocks of armour stone and cement.

The wall which protects Towyn is one and a half miles long, rises 8 metres above the beach and dates in part from 1850 when it was built by the Chester and Holyhead Railway.

The battering, meted out to the Clywd coastal town and elsewhere around the coastline this week, has vividly illustrated vulnerability of Britain's sea defences.

The huge hole punched in the Victorian sea wall at Towyn and subsequent flooding of inland areas has highlighted, some engineers say, the need for a new approach to protection from the ravages of the sea.

It has also pointed to the lack of capital expenditure on sea defences, the low priority placed on such measures, and the need to overhaul the administration system.

In Towyn engineers from Colwyn borough council and British Rail, which owns the section of wall that was destroyed, are trying to plug the gap with stones, from quarries near by, in a quick-fixing cement.

However as Mr Neville Gough, the borough's director of technical services, said, that will be a temporary measure. "There will obviously be a review of the situation after suffering this sort of damage."

The winds and seas have shown all too vividly that the

clay and stone edifice affords inadequate protection, especially now with the weather in global turmoil because of the greenhouse effect.

Questions are now being raised about the viability of solid sea walls, so called "hard engineering," as an effective protection measure.

The latest technology points to the effectiveness and greater long-term benefits of "soft solutions" such as artificial headlands, and off-shore breakwaters to dissipate the force of waves and prevent erosion. Mr Ian Toward, principal engineer at Sir William Halcrow and partners of Swindon, said.

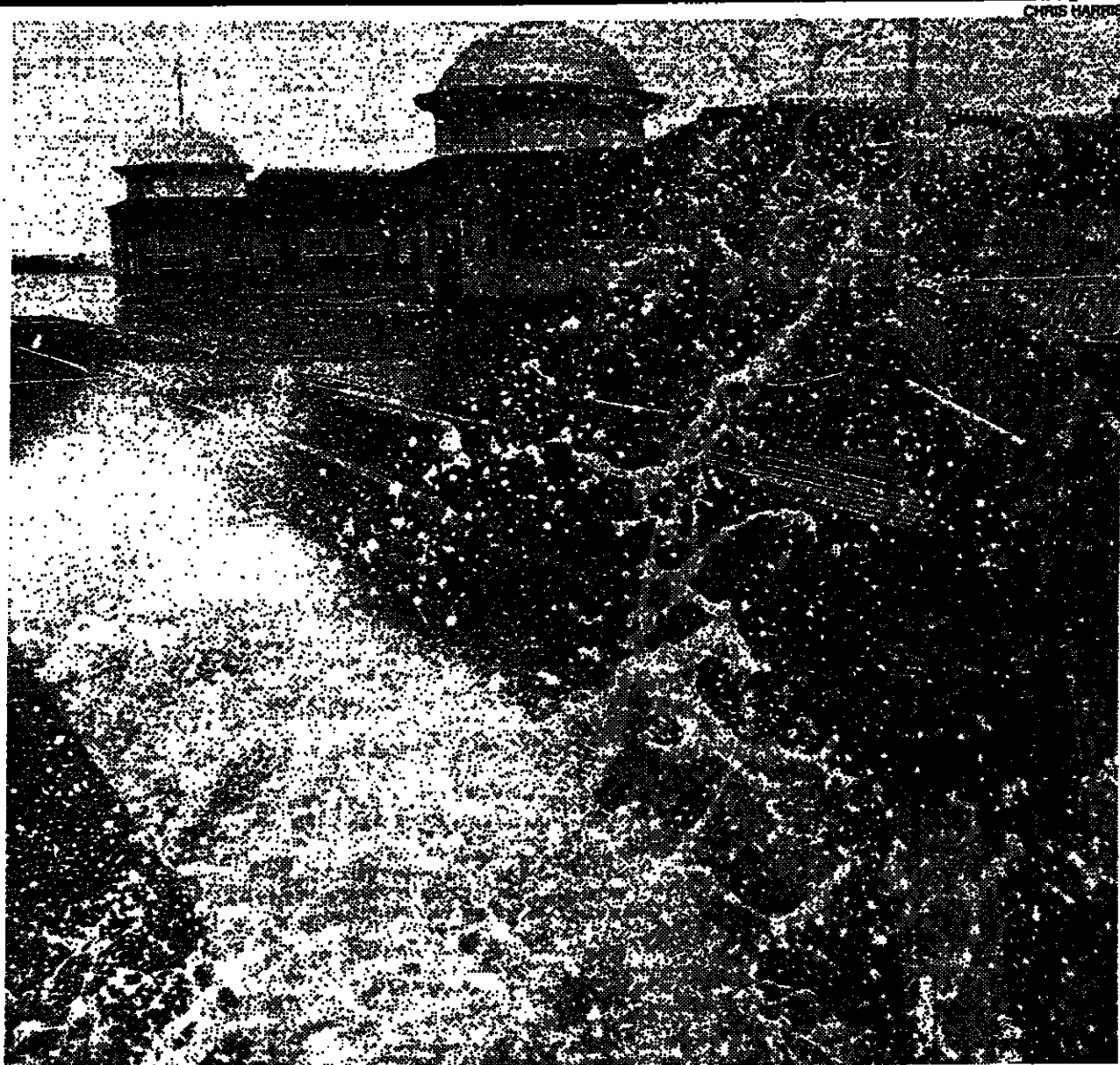
The severity of the storms has also highlighted the need for a single body to administer coastal defences.

Responsibility for sea defences against flooding of low lying land rests with National Rivers Authority under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture.

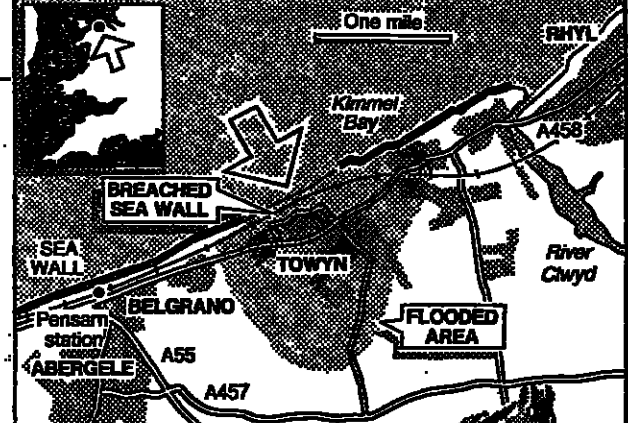
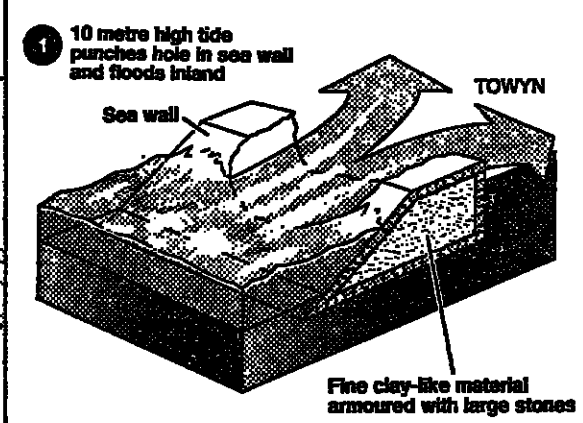
Coastal protection in the shape of sea walls against erosion, falls under the remit of local authorities, again administered by the ministry.

As MPs continued to voice concern about government priorities in shoring up Britain's sea defences, one region of the National Rivers Authority is struggling to tackle a £300 million backlog of "priority" capital projects. Its annual capital budget, however, is £22 million.

A spokesman said: "These are projects where life and property are at risk and we would wish to get on with the work as soon as possible."



The sea pounding over the pier at Hastings yesterday and, below, how engineers are tackling the urgent repair work.



At low tide contractors rebuild wall with large stones and quick drying cement.

Prince breaks holiday to visit stricken town

Continued from page 1 some homes in Bideford, Appledore, Ilfracombe, Instow and Braunton. At Ilfracombe, two families were moved from their homes as waves crashed through harbour defences already breached twice this week. In Somerset police warned the public of looters.

At Ballykelly, near Londonderry, farmers had to move livestock on to high ground after flooding and 1,000 acres of land were left under water.

In Grampian, snow made driving difficult with the A939

near Tomintoul completely closed.

In Wales, police and volunteer emergency workers patrolled Pensarn, warning residents over loud speakers that the next 32-foot tide scheduled for midday could reach their homes. They appealed to residents to move out but many refused, saying they would remain until the floods made it impossible to stay in their homes. Some said they had been made afraid by reports of looting although North Wales Police said that no cases had been reported.

Political sketch

Scots awa' as Lord James holds the line

If you weren't called 'Douglas' in Scottish Questions down at the Commons, yesterday, you weren't in it.

The hon member shouldn't address me as if I was James 'Buster' Douglas. I'm merely the member for Edinburgh West, trying to answer a question.

Thus did the mild-mannered Scottish junior minister, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, remonstrate with Dick 'Doughty' Douglas (the Labour MP for Dumfriesshire West). Lord James once was, in fact, a boxer (lightweight) of some distinction at Oxford.

And boy was Lord James punching! The Etonian Scotman had been riled beyond endurance over poll tax, and was fighting back hard. He was relying on the example of Marshal Foch, who wired his superiors: "My centre is giving way, my right is in retreat; situation excellent. I attack!"

It was not so much that Lord James's troops were disabled: they just weren't there. With Questions well under way, I counted the Tory benches. Discounting the seven ministers and whips on the Front Bench, there were eight Tories in the Chamber — to the Opposition's 51. Of the eight, four were English but had wandered in after lunch to assist embattled Scots colleagues. That leaves four Scots Tories.

Of these four, one (Alick Buchanan-Smith, from Kincardine & Deeside) had come to attack the Government. He and Labour's Calum Macdonald (Western Isles) wanted ministers to help fishermen the way they help farmers. Some chance!

If Spongy-Brain spread to fish and we faced an epidemic of Mad Cod Disease the Ministry's instinct would be to slaughter the fishermen, not the fish. Buchanan-Smith supported the industry, not the Ministry. That leaves three.

Of these three, one (Eastwood's Allan Stewart) came to test a strip off the Government for its dogged attachment to Prestwick Airport, at the expense of Edinburgh and Glasgow Airports. Prestwick is in a highly-marginal Tory constituency. That leaves two.

Of these two, one — Sir Nicholas Fairbairn (Perth & Kinross) was, frankly, confused. Confused about declar-

ing interests, confused as to which of two Questions he was addressing and very confused about his trousers.

Question 7 was about tourism; Question 8, about poll tax. "Sir Nicholas Fairbairn" called Mr Speaker.

"Hoos!" — we sensed Sir Nicholas desperately thinking — "Where were we?"

Question 7 or 8? Or is this about John Browne's failure to declare business interests? He glanced at the Order Paper. Poll-tax, tourism, and declarations of interest scammed through the Fairbairn brain.

His reply had a certain wild if deviant ingenuity. "May I declare an interest?" he started. "I am wearing a pair of free trousers in the Comrie Strathmore Tartan."

"I'm in no position to comment, smiled a bemused Mr Speaker, 'but carry on.'"

"This" (Sir Nicholas must have meant his trousers) "is intended to boost the tourist industry in Scotland. Does the Secretary of State agree that if the roof tax were introduced, the number of tourists would be multiplied by thousands and ruin the tourist industry?"

That leaves one.

Good old Sir Hector Monro (Dumfriesshire)! What will they do without him? Sir Hector was there to support the Government. On anything, really. Whatever seemed helpful. He chose a Question introduced by the Liberals' Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh & Berwickshire) who seemed to be worried about a barbarous Scottish practice — something which sounded like "duelling on the A1". We cannot actually remember what Sir Hector said but you may be sure that it was loyal, sensible, and in the best possible taste.

As Questions proceeded, most of the remaining Scots Tories arrived, whips looked in and, alarmed at the still-empty benches, hurried out. They soon did their work.

English Tories started to drift to their places, among them Edward Leigh (Gainsborough & Horncastle) whose socks were admired by giggling chums beside him: black socks, with a red and yellow picture of what looked like Rupert Bear on each.

Matthew Parris

Thames boats impounded

By David Sapested

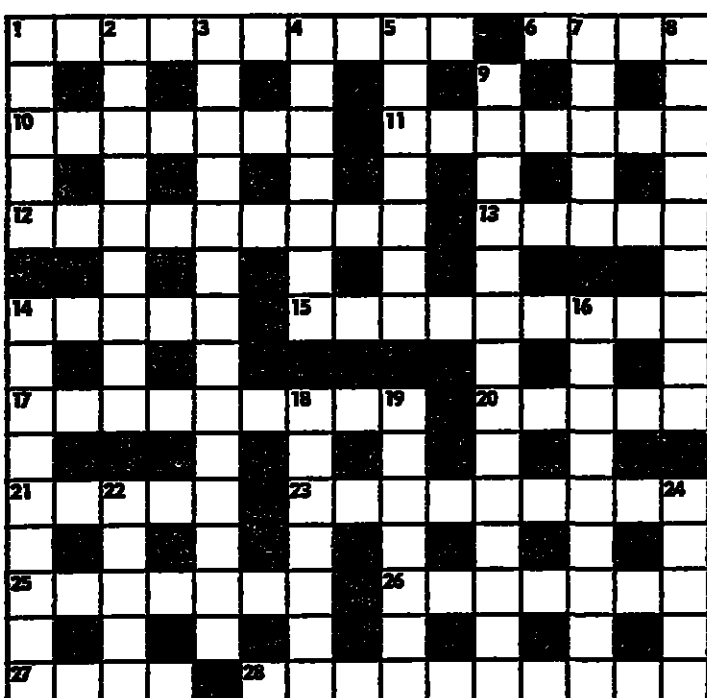
Two sister ships of vessels involved in the Marchioness disaster were seized on the Thames yesterday after solicitors for those injured and bereaved obtained warrants for the arrest of the vessels.

The arrest of the Hurlingham, sister ship of the ill-fated riverboat on which 51

people died, and the Bow involved in the Marchioness disaster, was made under a centuries-old law.

Solicitors obtained the warrants from the deputy Admiralty Marshal in the High Court, claiming that their efforts to obtain compensation had been subject to "delay and prevarication."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,230



ACROSS

1 Consumer of dairy products gets extremely earnest after two failures (4-6).

6 Strap about to administer a hard blow (4).

10 Field worker making changes — 16 (7).

11 Junk food is, with dad, a sore point (7).

12 Picked up as necessary (6-3).

13 Surveillance, when one's withdrawn, in retrospect is a failure (5).

14 In other words, apply friction (3).

15 County side bowls batsman out — he's without a single run (9).

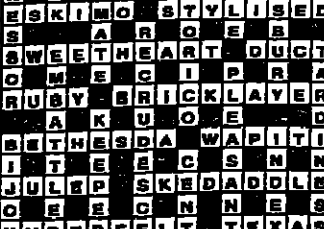
17 It records the time a match's taken in the mist (4-5).

20 5's drink (5).

21 Left port with a cargo (5).

23 What comes from shaving — a small part in G & S (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,229



25 A bit of an ogre, a service mechanic (7).

26 Not published in a rude form (7).

27 Prison sentence — release put back (4).

28 Asks too little for foreign articles — seconds — after deception (10).

DOWN

1 Spells sorcerers with a c (5).

2 Feels suspicious — let alarms off (5,1,3).

3 Dubious dealings yield firm under a thousand in cash (6,8).

4 Beetle found in meandering River Liffey (7).

5 Ruler sets up a representative in the capital (7).

6 Cry about nothing — get hit (5).

7 Nests seen as a possible source of anxiety (9).

8 Cockney's case of fruit (6,3,5).

9 Additional information one's turned up on transport (9).

10 Usually fashionable officer (2-7).

11 Loser's "Well run!" accepted by man (4-3).

12 For every smoke there's a smell (7).

13 Fancy woman, upset, put under doctor (5).

14 Parties with leaders of such integrity deserve electoral success (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

BURDEL

a. To talk nonsense

b. A medieval German madrigal

c. A house of ill repute

SOLLOQUAL

a. Eclipse of the sun

b. Talking to oneself

c. Living from the soil

CHEWINK

a. A walk of resignation

b. An Amerindian tribe

c. A large fish

BURREL

a. A coarse russet cloth

b. A 20-gallon vat

c. To burrow and tunnel

Answers on page 20

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M-ways/roads Dartford-T. A23 734

M-ways/roads M23-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

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AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

Cold north-westerly winds will bring sunny spells and showers, which will fall as sleet or snow in most places. North and west Wales, north-west England and northern Scotland will catch most of the showers while some of eastern Britain could stay dry. Snow will again settle in hilly areas. Frost likely in many places around dawn and in the evening. Outlook: Some snow in places, then milder on Saturday.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Alexandria	18	SE	75	0
Algiers	18	SE	75	0
Amman	18	SE	75	0
Amman	18	SE	75	0
Amman	18	SE	75	0
Amman	18	SE	75	0
Amman	18	SE	75	0
Amman	18	SE	75	0
Amman	18	SE	75	0
Amman	18	SE	75	0

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0

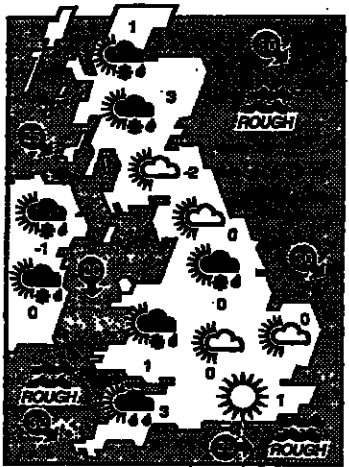
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 54% to 6 pm, 0.07 in. Sun: 24 hr 10.5 h. 5.1 hr. Sat: 10.5 h. 5.1 hr. Sun: 24 hr 10.5 h. 5.1 hr.

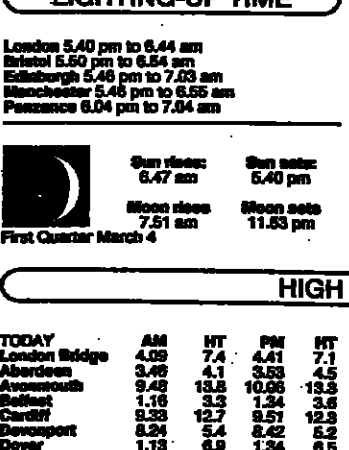
GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 5C (41F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 1C (34F). Rain: 54% to 6 pm, 0.18 in. Sun: 24 hr 10.5 h. 5.1 hr.

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 5.40 pm to 6.44 am
Edinburgh 5.40 pm to 7.03 am
Belfast 5.40 pm to 7.03 am
Preston 5.40 pm to 7.03 am

YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0

HIGH TIDES

City	Time	Height
London	1.30	9.5
London	1.30	9.5
London	1.30	9.5
London	1.30	9.5
London	1.30	9.5

NOON TODAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0
London	18	SE	75	0

Information supplied by Met Office

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- BUSINESS & FINANCE 23-30
- SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 31-34
- FOCUS ON ANDALUSIA 36-38
- LAW 39
- SPORT 39-44

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6905 (-0.0010)
W German mark
2.8645 (+0.0179)
Exchange index
89.9 (+0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1781.4 (-0.1)
FT-SE 100
2255.4 (+0.6)
USM (Datastream)
149.5 (-0.27)

Market report, page 28

Chairman
resigns at
Charterhall

Russell Goward, the Australian entrepreneur, has resigned as chairman and joint managing director of Charterhall, the mini-conglomerate, whose Australian parent, Westmex, is in receivership.

A spokesman for Charterhall said the UK company was not in receivership nor are there plans to call in the receivers. Mr Goward is believed to have resigned in order to concentrate on salvaging his interests in Westmex, where he has a substantial shareholding. Mr Kevin Freedman, Charterhall's other managing director, left the company last year.

Charterhall's shares are suspended at 94p. They are unlikely to be traded again until the Westmex receivers have made a decision on the company's 60 per cent stake in Charterhall.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2631.98 (+14.88)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	34581.99 (+694.04)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2851.98 (+19.38)
London	FT 30 Share	1781.4 (-0.1)
	FT-SE 100	2255.4 (+0.6)
	USM (Datastream)	149.5 (-0.27)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

ROSE	881p (+12p)
Glaxo	795p (+15p)
Handerson Admin	875p (+10p)
MAM	385p (+10p)
Church	1075p (+10p)
TVS	1075p (+10p)
A Cohen	232p (+10p)
Daily	232p (+10p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate	15%
3-month interbank	15 1/4-15 1/2%
3-month sterling bill	14 1/4-14 1/2%
US Prime	8 1/4%
US Treasury 8 1/2%	
3-month Treasury bill	7 7/8-7 7/4%
30-year bond	10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.6905	£ \$1.6900
£ DM2.8645	£ DM2.8655
£ Sfr2.5171	£ Sfr2.5185
£ FF5.4625	£ FF5.4640
£ Yen251.30	£ Yen251.40
£ Index: 89.9	£ Index: 89.9
ECU £0.717322	ECU £0.717322
£ Sfr1.26555	£ Sfr1.26555

GOLD

London	New York
AM \$406.10	AM \$407.70
£ \$407.25-407.75	£ \$407.25-407.75
COMEX \$407.70-408.20	

NORTH SEA OIL

Spot (Apr)	\$18.40/bbl (\$19.50)
Domestic latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rank	Rate
Australia	1	2.25
Canada	2	2.10
France	3	1.85
Germany	4	1.75
Italy	5	1.65
Japan	6	1.55
Netherlands	7	1.45
Spain	8	1.35
Sweden	9	1.25
Switzerland	10	1.15
USA	11	1.05
UK	12	0.95

Quarter of Abbey shareholders sell out

By Neil Bennett

More than a quarter of the people who took part in the Abbey National flotation last July have sold their shares, the company said yesterday.

Sir Campbell Adamson, Abbey's chairman, said 1.4 million of the former building society's customers have cashed in their shares, out of 5.5 million who bought them.

They have been spurred on by the strong share price, which reached 189p yesterday, compared with the 130p offer price as institutional investors have acquired large holdings, and now

own almost one third of the company. The flotation created Britain's biggest share register.

Since then many people have sold their shares and withdrawn their savings in protest at Abbey's bungled float which left 300,000 without share certificates and refund cheques. Abbey is still receiving letters from people who have not received their shares, and 400,000 have not taken up their free shares.

Sir Campbell was presenting the bank's figures for 1989, in which profits rose by 21 per cent to £501 million. There is a maiden dividend of 5.7p a share. "Abbey

National has gone from strength to strength in 1989 despite the difficult market conditions," he said. The figures beat all forecasts and were welcomed in the City where the shares rose 4p to 189p.

Abbey shrugged off the poor housing market during the year to increase its net lending by 24 per cent to £4.2 billion. But 75 per cent of the gain came from remortgaging, while new mortgage demand remained static. Its share of the mortgage market rose from 8.4 to 11.9 per cent. However, Cornerstone, Abbey National's estate agency chain, lost £16 million due to the collapse in house sales. The group's profits were also hit by an £8 million loss on gilts trading and the end of a £17 million a year pensions holiday.

Profits were increased by £51 million in interest from the £975 million the company raised at its float. Sir Campbell denied that Abbey is eager to spend the money. "There will be no *folie de grandeur*. Our money is not burning a hole in our pocket," he said. He promised to continue Abbey's European expansion which was helped last month by the £42 million ac-

quisition of Ficofrance, a French mortgage company.

Its share of the savings market fell from 9.8 per cent to 4.0 per cent in the year as banks started to offer higher interest rates, forcing it to raise its mortgage rate two weeks ago.

The high mortgage rates have started to increase arrears at Abbey. In the second half of 1989 there was a 14 per cent rise in arrears of more than six months. Despite this, Abbey increased its bad debt provision by only £1 million to £14 million.

Sir Campbell justified the bank's decision to raise the mortgage rate.

"The interests of our 8 million savers could no longer be ignored," he said. "We are essentially a retail organization and ignore that at our cost." Abbey's higher savings and mortgage rates are effective today.

The company also revealed a reorganization in its treasury department to take advantage of its new banking status. It has sold almost all its £1.6 billion in gilts, which exposed it to interest losses.

Instead it has bought higher-yielding US government-backed mortgage securities and sterling floating-rate notes. The losses in gilt sales will take about £11 million a year off profits until 1994

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Nuclear costs 'doubled in three days'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The merchant bank advising the Government on its £15 billion electricity privatization programme revealed yesterday how the amount of money needed to meet the cost of decommissioning nuclear power had more than doubled over three days last year.

The Commons energy select committee was told by Mr David Clementi, head of corporate finance at Kleinwort Benson, that when the bank started work on the privatization in 1987, it had been told by the Central Electricity Generating Board that the amount of money needed to meet the eventual cost of decommissioning nuclear power stations and supplying them with fuel was £3.2 billion.

He said, however, that on May 7 last year, the CEGB wrote to the bank saying this amount had risen to £4.5 billion. Three days later, another letter was received which said the figure was now £10 billion.

The revelation infuriated many members of the committee which has already published a highly-critical report of the Government's privatization proposals, and had recommended that nuclear power stations should not be privatized.

Mr Clementi, who also admitted he had not read the committee's report, said the bank had given competent and professional advice to the Government on the issue, and the withdrawal decision had been a matter of government policy. "Our advice was consistent. What was changing were the numbers we were being given."

Mr Clementi said his bank had maintained that the whole industry, including nuclear power stations, could be privatized provided certain conditions were met to cover the risks associated with nuclear power.

Lazard Brothers, the CEGB financial adviser, which is continuing as adviser to the National Power, the new company, told the committee it believed the flotation of National Power, including the nuclear stations was possible, as long as potential investors received assurance that certain financial risks could be adequately contained.

In evidence, Kleinwort Benson said: "It was not possible to provide a precise quantification of the costs due to the high level of uncertainty surrounding all long-term estimates of the costs and risks in the nuclear industry. In particular, we advised National Power that the financial market was strongly averse to uncertainty in this context."

"Whilst there are privately-owned nuclear power stations in a number of countries in the world, it was clear from the outset of our appointment to the CEGB that the inclusion of nuclear power would be one of the most difficult issues to be faced in a successful privatization of the electricity supply industry."

"We accordingly advised National Power that it would only have been possible to privatize National Power provided the particular risks associated with nuclear power, mainly the limited nature of many liabilities explicitly dealt with - were either borne by a third party, for example the Government or the consumer, or were capable of being determined with a high degree of certainty."

"We stated this as our view at an early stage in the discussions with National Power's nuclear group."

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A happy Christopher Norland flanked by models wearing the very latest Usher collections

Profits growth in fashion at Usher

Profit growth is back in fashion at Frank Usher (Melinda Wittstock writes). The women's evening wear manufacturer yesterday proved that a depressed clothing retail market need not mean stagnation or loss. The USM-quoted fashion house reported an 11.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £708,000 on turnover up 15 per cent to £7.69 million for the six months to end-December. Interim earnings per share climbed 8.2 per cent to 6.6p and the interim is kept at 2p. There was a £67,000 exceptional item, resulting from a £168,000 currency loss from conversion into sterling of a mark loan for the new headquarters in London, North London, somewhat offset by a £101,000 exceptional gain on the sale of a factory. Mr Christopher Norland, chairman, is confident about the second half.

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Gilts hit by £1.50 fall after trade figures

By George Sirell, London, and Susan Elliott, Washington

The gilt-edged market bore the brunt of City reaction to yesterday's announcement of the third worst monthly UK current account deficit.

Government stocks were down by up to £1.50 each at the close but foreign exchanges and stock markets were calmed by official explanations for the £1.9 billion current account deficit in January, more than double the revised £900 million for December.

Traders marked shares down sharply after the announcement. But as official explanations of large one-off diamond imports and the December Felixstowe dock strike gained ground in the City, stock markets recovered.

By the end of the day the FT-SE 100 index was up 0.6 of a point at 2,255.4 and the pound was up 0.3 on the trade-weighted index at 89.9. Against the mark the pound had slipped to almost DM2.84 just after the trade figures were announced before ending at

DM2.8645 - up 1.59 pfennigs on the day.

Against the dollar, sterling slipped 0.8 of a cent to \$1.6905 but the dollar was helped by the announcement of faster-than-expected economic growth in the US over the final quarter of 1989. This sent Wall Street up 25 points in early dealings which helped the London recovery.

The US economy grew 0.9 per cent in the final three months of last year, but economic performance is at its weakest in three years.

Bond prices eased after the unexpected improvement in the GNP data. But economists said the fourth-quarter growth rate was still disappointingly low.

The final quarter of 1989 showed the weakest economic growth since an 0.8 per cent expansion rate from July to September 1986.

The annual expansion rate was the slowest since 2.7 per

cent in 1986. Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, told the House Budget Committee he saw slow but positive growth for the first quarter of this year. His testimony indicated the Fed is unlikely to ease interest rates soon.

The US Commerce Department reported that the US economy grew at an inflation-adjusted rate of 3.0 per cent last year, compared with 4.4 per cent in 1988 and 3.7 per cent in 1987. The government revised its figure for fourth-quarter GNP upward from a previously reported 0.5 per cent because of an increase in exports. Economists had predicted a downward revision to about 0.4 per cent.

Another influence on world foreign exchanges was the Japanese government statement that interest rate decisions would be left to the Bank of Japan. Analysts expect a rise from 4.25 per cent to above 5 per cent, probably in two stages.

Shearson cuts 2,000 more jobs

From James Bone
New York

Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc, the US investment firm attempting to stave off a credit downgrade, yesterday announced a new round of redundancies to reduce its staff by a further 2,000. The cuts add to 800 redundancies announced late last year.

At that time, Shearson, the second largest American securities firm after Merrill Lynch, had 38,500 employees worldwide. Details about possible job losses in Britain were not immediately available.

The redundancies were part of a cost-cutting drive to save \$400 million a year. The company was conducting a possible rationalization plan that may result in cutting back or selling businesses, or entering into partnerships.

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OFT advice over-ruled on Ransomes and Westwood deal

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

For the first time, the Trade Secretary of the day has rejected the advice of Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, purely on competition grounds. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, is worried about a merger agreed last August which has apparently created a high market share in ride-on domestic lawnmowers.

Sir Gordon recommended there was no need for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) to look into the agreed merger between Ransomes of Ipswich, Europe's largest maker of grass-cutting machinery, and Westwood Engineering, owner of Laser Lawnmowers. The acquisition of Westwood, of Plymouth, for £9 million brought more capacity in sit-on mowers and garden tractors to Ransomes. One reason Mr Ridley was worried about market share was that the Office of Fair Trading had

encountered "uncertainties" when establishing the sizes of such shares. He had a further concern over the possible effects of the merger on the distribution of other types of domestic lawnmower.

It is a matter for speculation whether this possible storm in a grassbox has partly arisen because Mr Ridley has some inkling of the ways of the ride-on lawnmower industry. He is keen on country life and lists in *Who's Who* gardening among his leisure interests, as well as fishing, architecture and painting.

His move brings in a modest piece of Whitehall history. There have been two previous occasions during Sir Gordon's years at the OFT since 1979 when his recommendations were not followed by the reigning Trade Secretary, but neither revolved around a purely competition issue.

Lord Cockfield, as Trade Secretary, was involved on both occasions. At the

end of 1982, there was an MMC investigation of a proposed purchase in the wool textiles industry of Illingworth Morris by a single director of another company, Able. Lord Cockfield had taken into account as relevant factors not only the unusual individual bidder situation but that Illingworth Morris was a leading employer and important manufacturer in the industry, both factors he considered raised issues of public interest. This proposal was subsequently cleared by the MMC.

In 1983, there was a proposed acquisition of Sotheby's Park Bernet, parent of Sotheby's, the fine art house. Lord Cockfield believed it was a matter of public interest because London was a key centre of the art market with Sotheby's playing an important role.

In the course of the investigation by the MMC, the bid for Sotheby's Park Bernet was abandoned.

TEMPUS

Cadbury drinks to end of sweet life

"Sweets to the sweet farewell!" - Cadbury Schweppes has turned from a chocolate-based group into a beverages-based one. For the first time, soft drink sales and trading profits have overtaken the confectionery side with a respective 57 per cent and 53 per cent contribution to results.

Cadbury, led by chairman Sir Graham Day and chief executive Dominic Cadbury, has also taken a stand against Accounting Standards Committee proposals on capitalizing the value of acquired brands and has added £307 million on to the 1989 balance sheet. The effect is to help well-shareholders' funds which allow the group to advertise a gearing ratio of 62.4 per cent instead of 110 per cent.

And Cadbury has topped expectations with £251 million pre-tax profits (£215.7 million). The published net earnings growth was 6.1 per cent, reflecting accounting advantages in 1988, though underlying growth was 17.1 per cent. The final rises from 6.8p to 7.9p a share, making 10.7p (9.2p) for the year.

Last year was a mixture of good and not so good. There was a break on British confectionery profits because of the hot weather and capacity problems. The group was taken off the Arab boycott list and re-entered the Middle East market after 14 years.

On the beverages front, Cadbury made a number of complementary acquisitions, launched new products in Australia and tied up a Canada Dry distribution agreement for Japan.

The strong cyclical balance and prospect of solid organic growth should carry profits this year to £290 million. The General Cinema stake at 16.8 per cent has lost much of its market fizz and the bid premium has come out of the shares. Last July, they peaked at 462p. Yesterday, they were unchanged at 317p, and they have under-performed the market by 15 per cent over 12 months. However, on 11.9 times prospective earnings, backed by a current 4.5 per cent yield, they are beginning to look undervalued.

Ansbacher

Henry Ansbacher, the merchant banking group, handily made up for any disappointment at its half-time figures, storming home with a strong second-half performance which boosted full-year profits to £10.1 million after £7.2 million last time. The figures were well ahead of market expectations and lifted the shares 2p to 75p.

The interim profits, more than a quarter down at £2.2 million, were deflated by



Taste of success: Sir Graham Day, left, and Dominic Cadbury announce results yesterday

Ansbacher's ultra-conservative cash accounting system on work in progress and accruals, which counts profits only when they are in the bank.

But the group was firing on all cylinders throughout the year. It looks set for further progress to perhaps £14 million in the current year now that its restructuring is complete with the disposal of the insurance broking interests and its collection of niche activities is operating at high levels of activity.

Ansbacher's shares are tightly held - Groupe Bruxelles Lambert and Pargesa hold 62 per cent - and are trading at a p/e of 15,

assuming Ansbacher matches 1990 expectations. But, sooner or later, it will be logical for Ansbacher to free up the market by making a significant acquisition for

CU and GA

Commercial Union: Composite insurance companies, it turns out, are not all reeling towards bankruptcy as a result of the weather. CU clearly does not see a crisis in worsening underwriting results.

The 13 per cent rise in dividend to 21.5p, contrasted with a 25 per cent drop in earnings to an almost identical 21.7p per share, is a notable

expression of blithe confidence in front of a year when premium rates are still under pressure and the pace of "catastrophes" shows no sign of abating.

The payout rests more firmly on the underwritten life assurance element in CU's composite mix, which contributed profits of £102 million (up an underlying 12 per cent) to the group pre-tax total of £151 million.

Despite the full payout, unrealized investment gains helped raise investors' funds to £1.7 billion, boosting asset value 33 per cent to 400p.

CU has also given for the first time a valuation of its life businesses, including embed-

ded and appraisal value of future business, of more than £1.5 billion, less than a third of which is included in the balance sheet. In a bid situation, CU would therefore be able to claim an asset value of about 640p per share against yesterday's 473p share price.

General Accident: Despite problems with hurricane Hugo and an astounding fourth quarter in Britain, GA still has a superior underwriting performance to that of CU - and not just in the US. The underwriting loss of 6.6 per cent of premiums last year compared with nearly 10 per cent at CU. But the halving of pre-tax profit to £147 million looks worse because life assurance is relatively small and the group has created problems through strategic expansion moves. Its estate agent business lost £20.5 million and the NZI banking operations in Australasia, though now improving, lost £48 million for the full year.

The shares, down 47p to 1058p, sell at 16.2 times earnings and yield 6.4 per cent on the 50p dividend, which has been raised by 13.6 per cent and is still 1.3 times covered.

The underwriting prospect is still poor, but GA should be helped by eliminating the Hugo effect, which cost £74 million, and drastically cutting NZI losses.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TKM drives ahead with record £52m

Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn (Holdings), the motor distribution group controlled by Sir Ron Brierley, the £52.6 million (£44.1 million) for the year ended December. Group turnover crossed the £1 billion level for the first time and reached £1.07 billion. This compares with £984.6 million of sales generated in 1988.

The final dividend is raised from 3p to 3.5p a share, making 5p (4p). TKM says the current year has started encouragingly. The net interest charge was £8.49 million compared with £7.14 million, and fully diluted net earnings turned out at 14.5p (11.7p) a share. TKM has achieved a compound growth in earnings of 55.2 per cent per year since 1985. The shares rose 1p to 122p.

Rosy year for cider sales

Cider sales last year were 9.3 per cent higher than in 1988, creating record production of 67.66 million gallons, a 1 per cent rise on the previous best year of 1983. The figures will appear in the annual cider survey by Showers, due out this month. Mr Lyn Hughes, Showers' head of brands marketing, said the results show how resilient the industry still is on warm weather.

Hoskyns buys from Conder

Hoskyns Group, the computer services company, has acquired Conder Technology from Conder Group, the construction and property development company, for an initial payment of £100,000, with an additional payment of up to £400,000 depending on 1990 business levels. Conder Technology, which supplies geographic information systems, had a turnover of £870,000 in 1989.

Hi-Tec predicts £6.4m

Mr Frank van Wezel, chairman of Hi-Tec Sports, Britain's leading sports shoe supplier, said that full-year results are likely to be above expectations. Mr van Wezel predicted pre-tax profits of about £6.4 million, £200,000 ahead of half-way expectations. This was partly due to a contribution from Cofex, the new Dutch leisure clothing subsidiary.

The company said last October that the British trading environment was an important factor influencing performance. Mr van Wezel said the performance had been creditable in the circumstances. Mr Derek Watson, formerly a partner at KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, has been appointed finance director and Lazard Brothers financial adviser. The shares eased by 2p to 78p, after 83p.

Peak £23.9m Law stationer by Hoechst ends on form

Hoechst UK has announced a record year with pre-tax profits up 26 per cent to £23.9 million on sales up 8 per cent to £914 million by companies in the UK. Hoechst said January had been its best month ever in Britain. Mr Arno Baltzer, chief executive, said the group is still searching for a major buy but will more likely shortly announce joint deals with existing companies in several areas.

Stat-Plus, the USM-quoted law and office stationery retailer, increased pre-tax profits by 5.5 per cent to £5.32 million on turnover down from £12.6 million to £11.9 million for the year to end-December. Earnings per share climbed from 15.1p to 16.2p, while the final dividend increased from 2.25p to 3.75p, making 5.5p. The company said that sales in law firms and specialist stationery had improved.

Eagle sells properties

Eagle Trust, the heavily indebted engineering and film camera group, has sold virtually all its non-operational property in the Midlands to Gidney Securities, a private company in Birmingham, for £3.28 million net. The proceeds were above book value of £2.67 million.

The sale covered the majority of the properties of Haybridge Developments and Eagle Estates (UK) as well as Midlands properties of Smiths, Midland City Partnership and Eagle Trust itself, plus the business and assets of Residential Investment Properties, which runs a nursing home. Eagle Trust is due to publish its long-delayed 1988 accounts next week.

CBI drive to give business the edge

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry has launched a £1 million programme intended to persuade chief executives of British companies to question their management style in the search for improved performance.

The programme, a series of videos of businessmen who have used their management style to give their companies an edge over their rivals, has been co-sponsored by the Department of Employment Training Agency and IBM.

It will be launched this week. Eleven seminars on the programme, *The Edge*, will be held throughout the country. It is one of the most ambitious and costly training programmes ever devised by the CBI.

Mr John Banham, the CBI director-general, said: "The CBI is committed to success. *The Edge* provides the opportunity for businesses all over the country to do that by learning at first-hand the secrets that lie behind five British success stories. These show how, in each case, the chief executive helped create the conditions for success.

"The contribution of senior management to our economy is still not properly appreciated, yet Britain's international competitiveness depends on the chief executives of 1,000 or so of our leading companies."

COMPANY BRIEFS

AMS INDUSTRIES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.51m (£0.26m)
EPS: 1.07p (0.53p)
Div: 1p mkg 1.5p (1.5p)

ELECO HOLDINGS (Int)
Pre-tax: £2.67m (£2.83m)
EPS: 5.9p (6.9p)
Div: 2.3p (2.2p)

GRAFTON GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £23.8m (£22.2m)
EPS: 19.2p (13.3p)
Div: 3p mkg 5p (4p)

FORVAIR (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.76m (£1.35m)
EPS: 6.3p (13.3p)
Div: 1.8p mkg 2.7p

MICROFILM REPRO (Int)
Pre-tax: £3.28m (£2.45m)
EPS: 5.8p (4.7p)
Div: 1.5p (1.13p)

RODIME (Fin)
Pre-tax: Loss \$41.4m
LPS: 57.8c (61.2c)
Div: none

SHELDON JONES (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.14m (£0.11m)
EPS: 1.8p (1.5p)
Div: 1.35p (1.35p)

BWD SECURITIES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.71m (£0.82m)
EPS: 6.7p (6.2p)
Div: 2.75 mkg 3.75p

GOODWIN (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.07m
EPS: 0.84p (4.45p LPS)
Div: none

NOREX (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.11m (£0.70m)
EPS: 0.7p (0.01p)
Div: none

CRESTON (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.25m (£0.28m)
EPS: 0.85p adj (1.17p)
Div: 0.7p (0.7p)

Turnover climbed by 13 per cent to £7.6m. There was an extraordinary loss of £15,000 from the sale of the custom analogue console business.

Turnover advanced by 28 per cent to £24.8m. The company said the second half has started well, except for residential property.

Plans for two further stores, one in south Dublin and one in Cork, are at an advanced stage. Turnover increased to £69.1m (£53.2m).

Last year's total dividend was 1.8p. Chairman said the problems of 1989 are now behind the group. Exports account for 85 per cent of sales.

Turnover advanced by 50 per cent to £15m. The company says it has seen further progress in sales and profits in Britain and America.

Last year's pre-tax loss was \$25.9m. The fully-diluted loss per share is reduced from 58.2p to 53.2c.

Turnover falls to \$98.1m (\$115.6m). The company said that its pet food subsidiaries continued to grow, but the cost of commissioning new plant was higher than anticipated.

Last year, company made a single dividend payment of 2.5p. Group turnover rises to £7.65m (£2.57m). Interest gain at £285,000 (£147,000).

Last year's pre-tax loss amounted to £493,000. Group turnover climbed to £26.13m (£24.87m). The art and production is seeing improvement.

There is an extraordinary credit of £100,000 relating to the release of a bad debt provision no longer required. Turnover £17.9m (£25.2m). The company said that orders and inquiries continue to be buoyant at Aluminium & Timber, but there are increasing signs of a squeeze.

THEY could be the words of British tourists in Benidorm.

THEY'RE actually the words of British executives in Cloud Cuckoo Land.

PERHAPS it's that we've always been too arrogant about foreign languages.

PERHAPS we prefer to think we're not very good at them.

BUT one thing is clear.

IN the Single Market, a mastery of one or more European languages could be your

YOU DON'T HAVE

TO LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHOUT A LITTLE LOUDER IN ENGLISH.

strongest negotiating tool of all.

WHY else would 5% of management time on the Continent be set aside for language training?

WHY else would 10,000 employees of a famous German car maker be going to language lessons every week?

OUTSIDE working hours.

WHY else would a small German company which sells metal cutting machines employ two full-time

English
and
French
teachers?



BUT why should you worry when everyone else speaks English so well?

THE fact is they don't.

WHICH means if you can't make yourself understood in your customer's language you will risk losing sales.

(INDEED, a recent study showed that 44% of the British companies surveyed had lost business because of their lack of language skills.)

REASON, surely, to make language training

a vital part of your Single Market business plan. However busy you are.

TODAY, speak to your local Language-Export (LX) Centre, which has special courses in export consultancy and language training.

CONTACT your local university, polytechnic or college of further education, who may all be able to provide lessons and access to their language laboratories.

YOUR Trade Association, Chamber of Commerce or local library may also be able to help.

(REMEMBER, it isn't just your management and sales staff who need languages. What about your telephonist, secretary or telex operator?)

AND if it's still all Greek to you, ring the DTI Hotline on 01-200 1992 or your local DTI office.

THEY'LL help you find expert advice, as well as giving you the latest Single Market news from their information service.

EN el mercado unido todo el mundo habla varios idiomas.

ANNOYING isn't it?

THE SINGLE MARKET IS HERE NOW. WHERE ARE YOU?

السلامة من الحرائق

CU and GA weather flood of storm claims

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Leading composite insurance companies have suffered substantial but not catastrophic losses as a result of the storms and floods of the past five weeks.

Mr Tony Brend, chief executive of Commercial Union, estimated that the storms of January 25-27 would cost CU £40 million in Britain and on the Continent. But half of this was to restate the company's catastrophic reinsurance.

Total claims to CU have already reached 90,000, nearly as many as the final total for the October, 1987, storm.

Mr Nelson Robertson, chief general manager of General Accident, said claims for the January storms were estimated at between £70 million and £80 million but would

only result in a loss of £15 million to £20 million for GA, net of reinsurance.

He suggested that, including further bad weather and this week's storms and floods, the total net cost might be £30 million. Neither company yet plans higher premiums because of market competition.

Both CU and GA reported sharply lower profits for 1989, mainly due to increased underwriting losses. These were partly due to the series of weather-related catastrophes worldwide, but there was also a general increase in UK claims in the fourth quarter.

Mr Brend said that few of the 80 countries in which CU operated had not experienced exceptional weather conditions in the past year. Hurri-

cane Hugo cost CU £20 million, while GA must find £74 million because it had big operations in the worst-affected Caribbean area. Reinsurance has since been raised.

Overall, CU's pre-tax profits dropped 25 per cent to £150.5 million in 1989 after a rise in underwriting losses from £129 million to £245 million. Of this, £161 million (against £109 million) was in the US and £84 million (against a profit of £40.8 million) in the UK.

But CU has raised its dividend 13 per cent to 21.5p, out of earnings of 21.7p per share because of the strength of its life assurance interests which contributed £102 million.

GA also raised dividends by 13.6 per cent to 50p per share

although pre-tax profits slumped by half to £147 million. This was much worse than expected and GA shares dropped 47p to 1058p.

Life profits rose to £27 million with an additional £10 million from a change in reporting which brings GA into line with other companies.

But GA was hit by a £48 million full-year loss from the NZI banking operations in New Zealand, bought in July 1988, and a £20.5 million loss (against £1.2 million profit) from its estate agency business. NZI losses were halved in the second half and GA expects more improvement.

Both companies expect 1990 to be another tough year for general insurance.

Times, page 24

Crest may be sold for £350m

By Gillian Bowditch

Bass, the brewing and hotel group, has put its Crest hotel chain up for sale in order to concentrate on Holiday Inns.

Bass has put no price tag on the 47 hotels but the chain, which is being sold by Schroders, is expected to fetch about £350 million.

One factor which may depress the price Bass achieves is the number of hotels on the market. Queens Moat won its £157 million battle for Norfolk Capital this week and Embassy, Allied-Lyons' hotel chain, is up for sale. Both Trusthouse Forte and Ladbroke are believed to have hotels on the market.

The money raised from the sale of Crest would help to reduce the company's debt in the short term. In August last year Bass spent £2 billion buying the Holiday Inns chain in the US. At the end of this financial year its gearing ratio will be about 70 per cent.

The Crest hotel chain comprises 43 hotels in Britain and four in Holland. A total of 5,100 bedrooms will be sold.

Bass is converting eight Crest hotels at Gatwick, Maidenhead, Edinburgh, Leeds, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Florence and Bologna into Holiday Inns. In addition two hotels which are managed by Crest and five which are being developed by Crest will become Holiday Inns, with one other Bass property.

Mr Ian Prosser, chairman of Bass, said: "Crest is an excellent hotel brand with an outstanding reputation. However our future hotel development strategy will be totally focused on the expansion of the Holiday Inn brand."

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Abbey rings changes with some good news

The board of Abbey National must have been overjoyed to announce some good news for a change. After a miserable flotation last July, and the weight of bad press it received when the company was the first to hike its mortgage rate two weeks ago, it seemed they could get nothing right.

Pre-tax profits of £501 million in 1989, up 21 per cent, were £11 million above the City's highest forecasts. Admittedly, they contained £51 million of interest from the £975 million Abbey raised at the float, but even if this is accounted for, the growth is still more than 12 per cent.

Abbey remains a pre-eminent mortgage provider. Even in the tricky conditions of 1989, it still managed a net rise in lending of £4.2 billion, up 24 per cent from last year. The dearth of new mortgages was made up by a surge in remortgages and home improvement lending, backed by heavy marketing and innovative products. As a result, the market share grew from 8.4 per cent to 11.9 per cent.

On the savings side, however, the picture is less rosy and shows why the

Abbey felt it so vital to raise rates. The company's share of the liquid savings market slumped from 9.8 to 4 per cent. While some of this was due to people using their savings to take part in the flotation, there has been a clear flight to higher rates.

Abbey still relies on retail deposits for up to 80 per cent of its funds. Its treasury operation is still finding its feet and it cannot afford to alienate savers, even if it is prepared to take the risk with borrowers.

The company is starting to flex its new plc muscle. Some ventures, like Cornerstone estate agents, which lost £16 million, have proved difficult. Others, like FicoFrance, the new French mortgage subsidiary, have yet to show their worth. At least the company approaches the dangers of expansion from a solid base.

The final dividend of 5.7p is two-thirds of the amount Abbey might have paid had it been public all year. The shares, at 189p, have a notional yield of 6 per cent. With profits likely to be more than £605 million in 1990, the prospective p/e ratio is six. Still good value.

Misplaced emphasis at SE

Is wider share ownership an important objective for the Stock Exchange and its members? It is hard to believe so from the report of the Review Committee on Initial Public Offers, chaired by Mr Graham Ross Russell of CCF Laurence Prust.

The main thrust of the review committee's recommendations is to increase the role of placements and partial placements still further as a means of floating companies. This will reduce underwriting costs with a view to increasing the international competitiveness of London's capital markets in the approach to 1992.

Whether the authorities should be competing to attract foreign companies to float in London is questionable. The record of International Signal & Control and Mrs Fields suggests that there are good reasons why certain companies launch their Initial Public Offer away from their home turf.

But the promotion of wider share ownership appears to be somebody else's problem. Mr Ross Russell bemoaned the fact that most of the 11 million individuals who now own shares as a result of privatization issues would not know what a stockbroker was let alone use one. He looked forward to

the day when every bank branch had a clerk to help its customers buy and sell their shares.

There is a minor task for the Stock Exchange in doing away with the tiresome business of paper settlement. But in general it appears that promoting wider share ownership is not something members need to be bothered about.

That is a somewhat naive view. Control over the distribution of financial products is absolutely central to selling them to the public. The banks and building societies have developed their branch network to take deposits and make loans. Provided the commissions are sufficiently lucrative, they may be persuaded to sell unit trusts and life insurance.

A couple of banks and building societies have even set up low cost dealing services for those customers who ask, but the number who do so is tiny. Barclays, for example, has only 21,000 on its books. But neither the banks nor the building societies are going to the huge expense of persuading people to buy shares, rather than, say, life insurance. If the Stock Exchange feels that deepening share ownership is not a task for its own members, then it is not going to happen.

Manganese hails taxi's success

By Philip Pangalos

Record orders for the new Fairway taxi boosted profits at Manganese Bronze Holdings, the industrial holding company that makes the London cab.

Pre-tax profits advanced 21 per cent to £2.78 million in the six months to end-January, on group turnover ahead 31 per cent to £40.2 million.

Earnings per share rose 19 per cent to 10.75p. The interim dividend is 3.5p (3p).

Mr Jamie Borwick, the managing director, said the investment in the Fairway, which involved improvements in the design of the taxi, had been successful in the vehicles division.

Orders have increased, with the production rate now up to 70 vehicles a week. Overseas orders account for 7 per cent of business, with markets including Kenya and Japan.

Mr Borwick said the foundries and powder metals divisions had healthy order books and had benefited from recent group expansion.

The company has just received an order to supply 8,000 doors for the London Underground.

The shares firmed by 3p to 231p on the news.



Deals on wheels: Jamie Borwick, of Manganese, in the taxi which serves as his mobile office

Leigh seeks £35m from shareholders

By Melinda Wittstock

Leigh Interests, the West Midlands waste disposal group which handled toxic waste from the freighter Karin B last year, has turned to its shareholders to raise £35.6 million by way of a one-for-three rights issue at 290p.

Shares in Leigh, which has forecast a 38 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to a record £8.3 million for the year to end-March, fell 17p to 345p on news of the cash call, which is underwritten by Kleinwort Benson.

The company, Britain's market leader in the treatment of hazardous and toxic waste, plans to put most of the proceeds towards a £30 million plan to upgrade and expand its treatment facilities, with the remainder to be used to repay group borrowings of £11.9 million. The group,

which has forecast a 21.7 per cent rise in earnings per share to 16.8p, said demand for its services is likely to increase as a result of the Environmental Protection Bill.

Under the Bill, producers of waste will have more responsibility for its safe disposal, while under new Government regulations they will be obliged to reduce the amount of waste being discharged into the North Sea.

The company has forecast a final dividend of 4.88p net, representing an increase of 16.2 per cent. The interim dividend was 2.22p.

Leigh is issuing 12.65 million new ordinary shares to ordinary and preference shareholders at 290p. Preference shareholders will receive one new ordinary share for every 36p nominal held.

Lasmo doubles to a post-tax £60m

By Our City Staff

Lasmo, the aggressive British independent oil exploration and production group, has more than doubled its 1989 post-tax profits from £28 million to £60 million thanks to higher crude oil prices, a stronger dollar and a significant rise in production.

The number of barrels produced each day rose by 36 per cent to 71,800, while the average crude oil price increased 26 per cent over the previous year's average to £10.76 per barrel.

Pre-tax profits for the year were up from £15.8 million to £80.3 million on a turnover up from £149.7 million to £263.4 million, while earnings per share jumped from 12p to 23.7p.

Oil and gas reserves have increased by 68 per cent to 433 million barrels, largely as a

result of Lasmo's £358 million acquisition of Thomson North Sea in 1989 as well as continued international diversification of its exploration interests.

Lasmo said cash flow from operations after tax more than tripled to £147 million, with net indebtedness amounting to £14 million by the year-end.

Following what Lasmo described as a "substantial" increase in its financial reserves in recent years, it has opted to reduce an imbalance between issued share capital and reserves through a one-for-two bonus issue of fully-paid ordinary shares.

But the 1989 final dividend of 8.25p, which makes a total of 11.25p for the year against 8.5p last time, will not be payable on the bonus shares, which start trading on May 1.

Monstrous Morgan

Peter Morgan, the Institute of Directors' new director general, may have made a big impact in yesterday's newspapers with his maiden speech to an IOD convention. But last Friday he left members of its Northern Ireland branch stunned into an embarrassed silence. Addressing 500 members and their guests, including Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke and Belfast's Roman Catholic bishop, Cahal Daly, at their annual dinner, Morgan called for the abolition of the inheritance tax. "What does the Government do with the money it raises from the tax anyway, except waste it on the pay of hospital porters and the like?" he asked rhetorically.

Brooke was visibly observed to avert his eyes heavenward and many of the members were deeply angered by the remark. "We may be company directors but that does not make us insensitive and uncaring about the plight of lowly-paid members of the public services," said one senior member who left the room in disgust. "Least of all in Belfast would anyone regard hospital porters or other health service ancillaries as a waste. He came over as rude and patronising — and he told some very bad jokes."

One City worthy has suggested a solution to the apparent problem: lawyers had in finding 12 good men and true to comprise the jury for the lengthy Guinness trial. "Choose estate agents," he proposed.

Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Trixie a trifle too tacky

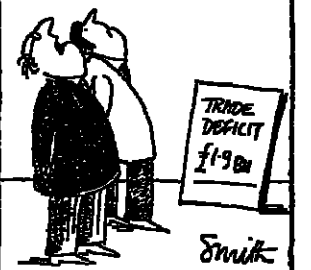
To celebrate the \$30 million acquisition of SFV, a Dallas wholesale fruit and vegetable distributor, by Polly Peck, Mark Ellis, Polly's corporate development director based in New York, had hoped to hold a party for the great and good of Dallas in that famous and apparently glamorous Texan residence near by — the Southfork ranch, so well known to soap fans. It is available for hire at \$1,500 a night, but the proposal was

vetoed as being "too tacky" after details of some of the optional extras were received. These included a JK look-alike, who would pose for pictures with the guests, and Miss Trixie, billed as the world's bawdiest saloon girl, who, said the owners, would "mingle with guests, tell jokes and teach the latest country and western dances." No surprise that Ellis says: "We're now looking for an alternative venue."

losing one of its more colourful characters. Balfour, aged 41, and related through marriage to television personality David Frost — Balfour's wife, Tessa, and Frost's wife, Carina, are sisters — tells me that

the changing face of Union Discount, now that the firm is involved in equity market-making and leasing, is the main factor behind his departure. The continuing decline of the gilt-edged market, in which he was directly involved, did not help. "I had been talking to Graeme Gilchrist (Union Discount's chief executive) for several months about my role within the group, which had become more and more difficult given the changes taking place. I have been very much party to the strategy of broadening Union Discount's base but in a sense I suppose I helped tie the goose around my own neck."

Balfour, who has worked all his life in the fixed interest market, is still pondering his next career move — "But I'm sure that it will be something with a financial gaggle," he says.



"No, that isn't one of ours either."

Price is right

The gap left by the departure two weeks ago of top agencies analyst Richard Dale from James Capel — now starting his own investor relations business — has already been filled. Stepping into his shoes will be Quintin Price, at present head of options research at Capel, where the options team won the top slot in the latest Exel survey. Price, aged 28, will be working beside the firm's remaining number one ranked agencies analyst, Neil Blackley, who has held that spot in both the Exel and Institutional Investor surveys for five years. "I've always been fascinated by the media in fact when I left university it was a toss-up as to whether I would go into advertising or banking," explains Price of his internal switch, effective from April 2. The world of finance won initially, since it was "the devil I knew" — it was in the family — my father was a general manager for Standard Chartered and my brother works for J P Morgan. Supporting his stated love of all things connected with the media, Price will be celebrating the publication of his book *Warrants, Options and Convertibles* at the end of March with a party at that favoured watering hole of admen and journalists — The Groucho Club.

Balfour declares
With Roddy Balfour one of two directors to resign from Union Discount yesterday, the City is, if only temporarily,



TWELVE MONTHS' UNAUDITED REVIEW

Dividend increase 13%

★ Shareholders' funds increased by 35% to £1,708m.

★ Operating profit before taxation £150.5m (1988 £201.8m).

★ Life profits increased to £102.0m (1988 £83.7m).

★ Hurricane Hugo and exceptional weather claims in the United States cost £39m. Competition increased in non-life markets.

★ Good profit contribution from the United Kingdom and Netherlands.

HIGHLIGHTS			
	12 months 1989 Unaudited	12 months 1988 Audited	
Total premium income	£3,524.7m	£2,991.2m	+ 18%
Operating profit before taxation	£150.5m	£201.8m	- 25%
Operating profit after taxation	£92.0m	£121.6m	- 24%
Earnings per share	21.7p	28.9p	- 25%
Net assets per share	400p	301p	+ 33%
Dividend per share	21.5p	19.0p	+ 13%

The Board is proposing a final dividend of 13.35p per share making a total for the year of 21.5p per share (1988 19.0p). The final dividend will be paid on 17 May 1990 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 12 April 1990. The proposed final dividend will cost £56.5m (1988 £49.5m). The proposed Group reorganisation, which was announced in November 1989, is subject to approval by shareholders at meetings to be held on 17 April 1990 and full details will be sent with the 1989 Report and Accounts. For reasons associated with this reorganisation it will not be possible to offer new ordinary shares in lieu of the 1989 final dividend.

This announcement does not constitute full group accounts for the year. Copies of the full group accounts, which have not yet been reported on by the auditors, will be circulated to shareholders on 22 March 1990 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after approval at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 17 April 1990.

CU Commercial Union Assurance Company plc

Members of the public may obtain copies of the accounts after 22 March from the registered office of the Company or by completing this coupon.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post to: Commercial Union Shareholder Relations Service, St. Helen's, 1 Unshelton, London EC3P 3DQ or phone 01-283 7500 Ext. 8866

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INDICES

Index	Value
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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your daily share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a stamp of the daily prize money should you win. Follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share or Unit
1	RMC Up (ns)	Building Roads	
2	Widmore (ns)	Industrials S-Z	
3	Widmore (ns)	Industrials S-Z	
4	Ulman (ns)	Oil/Gas	
5	Scott & New (ns)	Services	
6	Saatchi 10p (ns)	Print, Print, Adv	
7	Southcoast	Newspapers, Pub	
8	Mang Brown	Industrials L-R	
9	Atwoods	Building Roads	
10	Davson	Services	
11	Corn Energy	Oil/Gas	
12	Diploma	Industrials A-D	
13	P & O Dkt (ns)	Transport	
14	Bardays (ns)	Bank, Discount	
15	Midland (ns)	Bank, Discount	
16	ADT (ns)	Industrials A-D	
17	Brook Hill	Industrials A-D	
18	Aschbacher (Henry)	Bank, Discount	
19	Scargill	Industrials S-Z	
20	PIF (ns)	Food	
21	Hilbert (ns)	Food	
22	Microfilm Repro	Electronics	
23	Br Aerospace (ns)	Motor, Aircraft	
24	Unitech	Electronics	
25	Abbey National (ns)	Bank, Discount	
26	Body Shop	Bank, Discount	
27	Hamro Countrywide	Property	
28	Midsummer	Property	
29	Norcor	Industrials L-R	
30	Fosco	Chemicals, Plastics	
31	Robinson (Thomas)	Industrials L-R	
32	DAS Sumpson 'A'	Draper, Stores	
33	Brenning	Print, Print, Adv	
34	AMI Health	Industrials A-D	
35	Cater Allen	Bank, Discount	
36	Provident	Bank, Discount	
37	Borland	Electronics	
38	Domus	Industrials A-D	
39	Comet Gp	Leisure	
40	Western Motor	Motor, Aircraft	
41	Widmore	Property	
42	Lucas	Motor, Aircraft	
43	Clarkson (H)	Transport	
44	Boston	Industrials A-D	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1989/90	High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%
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SHORTS Under Five Years

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BUILDING, ROADS

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange Index compared with 1965 was up at 89.9 (day's range 89.6-89.9).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for February 28				
	Range	Change	1 month	3 month
New York	1.8950-1.8910	1.8900-1.8910	0.95-0.83	2.51-2.27
London	2.0250-2.0167	2.0175-2.0157	0.54-0.49	0.54-0.49
Amsterdam	2.0250-2.0167	2.0175-2.0157	0.54-0.49	0.54-0.49
Brussels	55.25-55.30	55.30-55.30	23-21	70-69
Copenhagen	10.9485-11.0078	10.9845-11.0078	25-25	76-76
Frankfurt	2.8493-2.8392	2.8522-2.8392	14-14	46-46
Lisbon	251.01-251.75	250.80-251.75	10-20	55-131
Madrid	183.00-183.00	183.00-183.00	5-10	15-10
Mexico	210.32-211.39	211.34-211.29	5-10	15-10
Osaka	10.9785-11.0278	11.0044-11.0278	39-39	67-69
Paris	2.0250-2.0167	2.0175-2.0157	0.54-0.49	0.54-0.49
Stockholm	10.2570-10.3438	10.2570-10.3438	119-119	319-319
Tokyo	22.50-22.51	22.51-22.51	13-13	31-31
Winnipeg	22.50-22.51	22.51-22.51	13-13	31-31
Zurich	2.0250-2.0167	2.0175-2.0157	0.54-0.49	0.54-0.49
Present = 100. Discount = 60.				
Argentina Austral = 7/1350-57/52-62				
Australia Dollar = 2/2145-2 2187				
Bahrain Dinar = 0.6235-0.6375				
Brazil cruzeiro = 51-61,005-1.5578				
Canada Dollar = 0.79-0.80				
Chile Unidad = 1.00-1.00				
Hong Kong dollars = 95.800-270.10				
Hong Kong dollar = 138.100-138.100				
India Rupee = 25.50-33.00				
Kuala Lumpur KD = 0.4285-0.4325				
Malaysia Ringgit = 4.5550-4.5550				
New Zealand dollar = 2.8007-2.8007				
Saudi Arabian riyal = 12.9750-13.9610				
Singapore dollar = 1.0000-1.0000				
South Africa rand = 0.8248-0.8248				
African rand (com) = 4.3051-4.3108				
U.A. Dollar = 6.1752-6.2275				
Uganda Shilling = 6.1752-6.2275				
Yemen Rial = 6.1752-6.2275				
Yugoslavia Dinar = 6.1752-6.2275				
East and West German Mark = 6.1752-6.2275				

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Denmark	1.5990-1.7005	Denmark	6.4975-6.5025	Italy	12.505-12.515
Singapore	1.8855-1.8875	W Germany	1.9550-1.9595	Bulgaria (Com)	35.21
Malaysia	2.7025-2.7035	Switzerland	1.4875-1.4895	Hong Kong	7.8075-7.8085
Australia	1.3140-1.3157	Netherlands	1.9110-1.9120	Portugal	145.80-145.80
Canada	1.1900-1.1910	France	5.7300-5.7350	Spain	106.90-106.90
Sweden	6.1115-6.1185	Japan	148.75-148.85	Australia	11.93-11.94
		Spain		Italy	

MONEY MARKET

Euro Rates %		Euro Money Deposits %	
Overnight 15% Low 16% High 14%	15%	Overnight 15% Low 16% High 14%	15%
1 month 14 1/2%	14 1/2%	1 month 14 1/2%	14 1/2%
3 months 14%	14%	3 months 14%	14%
6 months 13 1/2%	13 1/2%	6 months 13 1/2%	13 1/2%
1 year 13%	13%	1 year 13%	13%
2 years 12 1/2%	12 1/2%	2 years 12 1/2%	12 1/2%
3 years 12%	12%	3 years 12%	12%
4 years 11 1/2%	11 1/2%	4 years 11 1/2%	11 1/2%
5 years 11%	11%	5 years 11%	11%
10 years 10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 years 10 1/2%	10 1/2%
15 years 10%	10%	15 years 10%	10%
20 years 9 1/2%	9 1/2%	20 years 9 1/2%	9 1/2%
25 years 9%	9%	25 years 9%	9%
30 years 8 1/2%	8 1/2%	30 years 8 1/2%	8 1/2%
35 years 8%	8%	35 years 8%	8%
40 years 7 1/2%	7 1/2%	40 years 7 1/2%	7 1/2%
45 years 7%	7%	45 years 7%	7%
50 years 6 1/2%	6 1/2%	50 years 6 1/2%	6 1/2%
55 years 6%	6%	55 years 6%	6%
60 years 5 1/2%	5 1/2%	60 years 5 1/2%	5 1/2%
65 years 5%	5%	65 years 5%	5%
70 years 4 1/2%	4 1/2%	70 years 4 1/2%	4 1/2%
75 years 4%	4%	75 years 4%	4%
80 years 3 1/2%	3 1/2%	80 years 3 1/2%	3 1/2%
85 years 3%	3%	85 years 3%	3%
90 years 2 1/2%	2 1/2%	90 years 2 1/2%	2 1/2%
95 years 2%	2%	95 years 2%	2%
100 years 1 1/2%	1 1/2%	100 years 1 1/2%	1 1/2%
105 years 1%	1%	105 years 1%	1%
110 years 1/2%	1/2%	110 years 1/2%	1/2%
115 years 1/4%	1/4%	115 years 1/4%	1/4%
120 years 1/8%	1/8%	120 years 1/8%	1/8%
125 years 1/16%	1/16%	125 years 1/16%	1/16%
130 years 1/32%	1/32%	130 years 1/32%	1/32%
135 years 1/64%	1/64%	135 years 1/64%	1/64%
140 years 1/128%	1/128%	140 years 1/128%	1/128%
145 years 1/256%	1/256%	145 years 1/256%	1/256%
150 years 1/512%	1/512%	150 years 1/512%	1/512%
155 years 1/1024%	1/1024%	155 years 1/1024%	1/1024%
160 years 1/2048%	1/2048%	160 years 1/2048%	1/2048%
165 years 1/4096%	1/4096%	165 years 1/4096%	1/4096%
170 years 1/8192%	1/8192%	170 years 1/8192%	1/8192%
175 years 1/16384%	1/16384%	175 years 1/16384%	1/16384%
180 years 1/32768%	1/32768%	180 years 1/32768%	1/32768%
185 years 1/65536%	1/65536%	185 years 1/65536%	1/65536%
190 years 1/131072%	1/131072%	190 years 1/131072%	1/131072%
195 years 1/262144%	1/262144%	195 years 1/262144%	1/262144%
200 years 1/524288%	1/524288%	200 years 1/524288%	1/524288%
205 years 1/1048576%	1/1048576%	205 years 1/1048576%	1/1048576%
210 years 1/2097152%	1/2097152%	210 years 1/2097152%	1/2097152%
215 years 1/4194304%	1/4194304%	215 years 1/4194304%	1/4194304%
220 years 1/8388608%	1/8388608%	220 years 1/8388608%	1/8388608%
225 years 1/16777216%	1/16777216%	225 years 1/16777216%	1/16777216%
230 years 1/33554432%	1/33554432%	230 years 1/33554432%	1/33554432%
235 years 1/67108864%	1/67108864%	235 years 1/67108864%	1/67108864%
240 years 1/134217728%	1/134217728%	240 years 1/134217728%	1/134217728%
245 years 1/268435456%	1/268435456%	245 years 1/268435456%	1/268435456%
250 years 1/536870912%	1/536870912%	250 years 1/536870912%	1/536870912%
255 years 1/1073741824%	1/1073741824%	255 years 1/1073741824%	1/1073741824%
260 years 1/2147483648%	1/2147483648%	260 years 1/2147483648%	1/2147483648%
265 years 1/4294967296%	1/4294967296%	265 years 1/4294967296%	1/4294967296%
270 years 1/8589934592%	1/8589934592%	270 years 1/8589934592%	1/8589934592%
275 years 1/17179869184%	1/17179869184%	275 years 1/17179869184%	1/17179869184%
280 years 1/34359738368%	1/34359738368%	280 years 1/34359738368%	

12 mo: 15% to 16% GDP

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cent. Reference rate Dec 30, 1989 to Jan 31, 1990 .
Schems IV & V: 15.199 per cent.

ON FINANCIAL FO

[illegible]

IES

LONDON FOX		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	
Price	Contract	Official prices in pounds previous day	Residual Wolff
COCOA	Dec 72-73		
555-565	Dec 72-73		
565-575	Jan 73-74		
575-585	May 73-74		
585-595	Nov 73-74		
595-605	Nov 2012		
605-615			
615-625			
625-635			
635-645			
645-655			
655-665			
665-675			
675-685			
685-695			
695-705			
705-715			
715-725			
725-735			
735-745			
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765-775			
775-785			
785-795			
795-805			
805-815			
815-825			
825-835			
835-845			
845-855			
855-865			
865-875			
875-885			
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895-905			
905-915			
915-925			
925-935			
935-945			
945-955			
955-965			
965-975			
975-985			
985-995			
995-1005			
1005-1015			
1015-1025			
1025-1035			
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LONDON MEAT

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			ATTICES (Pcs)			As per historic prices on representative markets on February 28		
WHEAT class 1	Mar 29.87		Wht	Open	Close	Gr	Pkg	Cattle
WHEAT class 2	Mar 29.80		Apr	120.0	119.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 3	Mar 29.75		May	119.5	119.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 4	Mar 29.70		Jun	119.0	118.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 5	Mar 29.65		Jul	118.5	118.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 6	Mar 29.60		Aug	118.0	117.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 7	Mar 29.55		Sep	117.5	117.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 8	Mar 29.50		Oct	117.0	116.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 9	Mar 29.45		Nov	116.5	116.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 10	Mar 29.40		Dec	116.0	115.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 11	Mar 29.35		Jan	115.5	115.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 12	Mar 29.30		Feb	115.0	114.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 13	Mar 29.25		Mar	114.5	114.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 14	Mar 29.20		Apr	114.0	113.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 15	Mar 29.15		May	113.5	113.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 16	Mar 29.10		Jun	113.0	112.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 17	Mar 29.05		Jul	112.5	112.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 18	Mar 29.00		Aug	112.0	111.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 19	Mar 28.95		Sep	111.5	111.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 20	Mar 28.90		Oct	111.0	110.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 21	Mar 28.85		Nov	110.5	110.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 22	Mar 28.80		Dec	110.0	109.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 23	Mar 28.75		Jan	109.5	109.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 24	Mar 28.70		Feb	109.0	108.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 25	Mar 28.65		Mar	108.5	108.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 26	Mar 28.60		Apr	108.0	107.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 27	Mar 28.55		May	107.5	107.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 28	Mar 28.50		Jun	107.0	106.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 29	Mar 28.45		Jul	106.5	106.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 30	Mar 28.40		Aug	106.0	105.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 31	Mar 28.35		Sep	105.5	105.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 32	Mar 28.30		Oct	105.0	104.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 33	Mar 28.25		Nov	104.5	104.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 34	Mar 28.20		Dec	104.0	103.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 35	Mar 28.15		Jan	103.5	103.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 36	Mar 28.10		Feb	103.0	102.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 37	Mar 28.05		Mar	102.5	102.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 38	Mar 28.00		Apr	102.0	101.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 39	Mar 27.95		May	101.5	101.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 40	Mar 27.90		Jun	101.0	100.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 41	Mar 27.85		Jul	100.5	100.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 42	Mar 27.80		Aug	100.0	99.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 43	Mar 27.75		Sep	99.5	99.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 44	Mar 27.70		Oct	99.0	98.5	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 45	Mar 27.65		Nov	98.5	98.0	Gr	0	0
WHEAT class 46	Mar 27.60		Dec	98.0	97.5	Gr	0	0

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

ICIS-LOR Group
Tuesday night's Stats were regarded as neutral, thus were little changed. All products eased in limited acetone which was stable to a shade firmer.

CRUDE OILS/assessed (\$/BBL FOB)	NPE F
---	--------------

Brent Phys	16.20	
WTI May	15.80	
15 day Apr	19.50	
WTI Apr	21.85	-05
WTI Mar	21.70	

PRODUCTS BUYER'S GYMT.

Sport CIP NW Euro - prompt delivery		
Spot Gas 15	+22-225	+1
Crude Oil	+172	-1
Nm 1Kt Mar	-1	171-172
Nm 1Kt Apr	-1	167-168
3.5 Fuel Oil	-1	166-161
Naphtha	-1	162-165

RIFEX

CRI Freight Futures Dry Cargo (\$/ton)		
Feb 90 High-Low	Close 1295	Chg
Mar 90 High-Low	Close 1295	Chg
Apr 90 HI 1655-1945 Low	Close 1655	Chg
Jul 90 HI 1396-1935 Low	Close 1396	Chg
Oct 90 HI 1396-1935 Low	Close 1396	Chg
Vol 257 lots	Open interest 5363	
Dry cargo index 1604 +1		

GAS OIL	
May	
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LONDON FUTURE	
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except	Mar 856-865	D
	May 674-673	M
	Jul 688-688	M
	Sep 703-702	
RES		
	COFFEE	
Future	Mar 615-614	AI
25-70.00	May 637-636	N
40-65.50	Jul 647-645	J
75-63.25	Sep 660-658	M
100-62.25		
1.75 SLR	SUGAR	C
5.75 SLR	FOB	
	Mar 318.8-18.8	De

7.60 SLR	Aug 318.2-17.8	Mon
2783	Oct 308.8-08.6	May

Futures	LONDON GRAIN F
59-19.54	WHEAT class (2/3)
53-19.47	Nr 112.80 My 115.80
5197	Sp 106.30 Nv 109.25
POTATO	BARLEY class (2/3)
Close	Nr 108.15 My 108.00
182.5	Nv 107.00 Ja 110.40
224.0	SOYABEAN
98.8	Apr 123.0-24.0
110.0	Jun 119.5-20.5
Vol 214	Aug 119.5-20.5
	Oct 120.0-23.0

... LONDON
Official prices/volume

(\$/tonne)	Cash
Copper Gds A	1455.0-1
Lead	515.00-5
Zinc H Gds*	1480.0-1
Zinc Spec H*	1472.0-1
Th*	6361
Aluminum H*	1477.0-1
Nickel*	7500
† (Cents per Troy oz.) = (\$	

LONDON MEAT

FUTURES (Avg)	
Live Pig Contract	
Nbr	Open Close
Apr	120.0 119.5
Jun	120.0 120.0
Aug	115.5 115.5
Oct	120.5 120.5
Live Cattle Contract	
Apr	unq unq
May	unq unq
Jun	unq unq
Vol 55	Vol Pig-201 Cattle-0

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3 month	Vol	Tone
1442.0-1444.0	380200	Firmer
434.50-435.00	83400	Firmer
n/a	16800	Quiet
1435.0-1438.0	118400	Steadier
8480-8490	3515	Steadier
1487.0-1488.0	243450	Steady
7475-7500	13302	Steady

HEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
(w)	98.48	208.03	110.17
(p)	-0.10	-0.48	-0.21
Nval (%)	-3.0	-17.8	+7.4
Nval (p)	98.48	208.15	110.85
Nval (+/-)	-0.10	-0.32	-0.34
stand (%)	n/a	-38.8	+3.6
stand (p)	n/a	207.58	107.50
stand (+/-)	n/a	+2.68	+0.35

● SPACE: ROCKET SETBACK
● MEDICINE: HEARING HOPES
● TECHNOLOGY: HDTV TALK

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THURSDAY MARCH 1 1990

Some like it hot, with graphics

GEOFFREY SIMS



Screen legends such as Monroe, Bogart and Presley can be recreated by computer. They could even star in the films of the future, Nick Nuttall reports

The tantalizing prospect of film directors casting long-gone stars of the silver screen in new, full-length feature films may be at hand.

Computer scientists have created a Marilyn Monroe character, generated electronically, which, they claim, looks and behaves stunningly like the legend.

A short sequence, in which the computer-sculptured actress performs in her famous skirt-blowing scene, will be released in about three months.

The breakthrough has been made by a University of Geneva team who have, for several years, been refining modelling and animation software to computer synthesize heroes and heroines like Monroe and Humphrey Bogart.

The professor of computing, Ms Nadia Thalman, said the group was also working on an electronic Elvis Presley and a Madonna. She said that in early attempts the manufactured Monroe was unmistakable, but her hair and clothes resembled a Barbie doll more than a human being.

But the new computer-crafted scene, replicating the shot in which Monroe's white, pleated skirt is buffeted by hot air from the subway, has broken the boundaries between artificiality and real life. Skin tones, unique to each person and notoriously difficult to synthesize, look authentic.

Blonde, flowing hair, a feature that has been so complicated for computer animators to create convincingly, has been electronically mimicked to a level that defies detection, the team claims. The clothes, instead of appearing rigid or cutting through a character's form, flow with the body and the air. With enough funding, Professor Thalman believes the project could be out of the laboratory and used in a full-length feature film in a few years.

Synthesizing one of the film world's greatest legends to star as the leading lady in, say, the next James Bond may raise moral and ethical questions for some.

It is also likely to raise legal questions from the film studios and the inheritors of the star's estate.

The university film team faced the lawyers when they learnt Bogart was being recreated for public consumption.

"We pointed out that we weren't making any money, so they agreed it was OK," Professor Thalman said.

Yet without doubt, computer animation, from a faltering start, has come of age for application throughout the special effects department of the movie world.

Experts believe it could cut expensive location costs by allowing the armchair synthesis of landscapes, and generate elaborate stunts too dangerous for humans.

However, it is in the realm of science fiction and fantasy where many see its greatest role, by fulfilling the scriptwriters' wildest imaginings.

Mr Doug Kay, of Industrial

Light and Magic (ILM), the California-based special effects company of *Star Wars* producer George Lucas, points to the water monster or pseudopod written into the script of *The Abyss*, a recent 20th Century Fox release.

"Using computer animation we were able to create an effect that had no counterpart in traditional techniques while producing an effect that the director wanted," Mr Kay said.

A model or hand-painted, two-dimensional monster, animated by traditional cartoon techniques, would never have continuously rippled like the film's creature, he said.

Because the monster's appearance was due as much to light on water as the water itself, ILM's computer had to calculate millions of possible reflections to achieve realism. The creature also had to reflect the expressions of the humans it met.

At Imagina, the European computer graphics festival held in Monte Carlo, *The Abyss* took the supreme prize.

Mr Kay admits that because no one had seen a monster made from water before, suspending reality was marginally easier in *The Abyss* than computer-animating a familiar life form to appear real, like a deer or a cat. However, he believes that the only limitations to such achievements are time and money.

Mr Kay also believes that *The Abyss* buries the lingering doubts some directors and producers may have about computer graphics:

namely that they look and feel as if they have been electronically made. "We believe we are at the point where the effects do not look as if they were created by a particular technique," he said. The firm's computer artists are working on *Back To The Future III*. Here the technique is proving a powerful resource for solving technical problems rather than creating flashy creatures. For example, in the second film of the series, the hero, Michael J. Fox, took to the air in a De Lorean car.

The scene, full of flying vehicles, was shot on a conventional set using cranes that held the cars aloft with cables.

Instead of painting out the wires on the film, ILM's computer animators recreated the backdrop that the cables were obscuring.

"The work's more subtle. Adding elements or wiping out artifacts you do not want," Mr Kay said.

ILM's philosophy is pragmatic, considering computer animation as a tool for making more exciting and cheaper films, rather than as an end in itself.

Just across the road from ILM in San Rafael is Pixar, a company founded by Mr John Lasseter, a man who has done more than most to bring on the computer animation age.

One of the great problems that has faced the fledgling computer animation industry is to make animal and human faces "soft". The design of computers means

they tend to create hard lines and bold colours.

In 1989, Mr Lasseter demonstrated this need not be so when he won an Oscar for his short, *Tin Toy*, in which a small toy is pursued across a lounge by an obsessed baby. What captivated the judges was both the humour and life-like actions of the child, which moved with the natural unco-ordination of its years.

Mr Lasseter, who gained early training at Disney, followed *Tin Toy* with *Knick Knack*, a celebration of the cartoon world. He has now moved out of research and development into making commercials.

But few doubt that he is gearing up for a fully-animated film, synthesized by computer. "It has been a goal of many people in the field to make a full-length, computer-generated film. But we feel there is no reason to do this for its own sake," Mr Kay said.

"We believe this technology should be used if the story needs it, rather than the other way round."

Mr Kay is sceptical about casting synthesized actors and actresses in film roles. "I don't see the problem as being one of computer graphics, more of artificial intelligence problems of the computer," he said. "It is not just the question of getting the character to look right, but teaching it to act, be believable and create the right emotions. That is such a large leap from where intelligent systems are now."

He also wonders if people really want to see computer-synthesized stars. "I think people go to the movies to see people, and by that I mean real people."

There is a short sequence in which the computer 'actress' performs in her famous skirt scene

TRACING ANIMATION: FROM MICKEY MOUSE TO STAR WARS

Film animation really began with Walt Disney's transfixing hand-drawn Mickey Mouse from the legendary 1928 cartoon, *Steamboat Willie*.

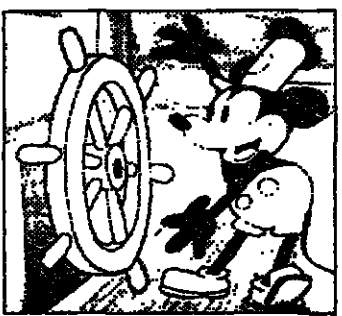
Special effects credit is also due to Ray Harryhausen for his incredible monsters, modelled by hand, with each fractional movement painstakingly filmed using stop-frame photography.

Jason and the Argonauts, in which seven skeletons have a five-minute duel with three of the legendary mariners, took Harryhausen more than four months to shoot.

Since the invention of the computer, such technology has penetrated the film world, controlling cameras and models.

Some say the pinnacle of this combination of hand-craft and processing power was reached by George Lucas in the spaceship dog fights in *Star Wars* (1977).

Computer graphics made an early entrance in the 1982 Disney



1928: animation has come far since Mickey's first days

production *Tron* but the animation, which attempted to represent the insides of a computer, failed to win over the critics.

Nevertheless, despite setbacks in computer animation, ILM continued work with the technology, employing it in a limited way on films such as *Willow* which used computer synthesis to link a

tortoise, tiger and human transformation. Computers were also used for an ageing scene in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Synthetic lighting by ILM also played a crucial role in the success of *Roger Rabbit* where a two-dimensional cartoon character appeared to co-exist in a real world.

But the technique has proven its promise in the current release thriller, *The Abyss*, and in the shorts made by Lasseter, who worked at ILM before going solo. Nadia Thalman's reputation for work in the field has grown since her early Monroe attempts, such as *Galaxy Sweetheart*.

Britain, a nation respected for its special effects, seems to be left behind in this new era. Mr Roy Field, one of the country's leading special-effects experts, based at Pinewood Studios in Iwer, Buckinghamshire, said the industry has the expertise but not the investment.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Fault line: an Ariane 4 rocket similar to the one which exploded

Setback in space

When a European Ariane rocket exploded last week, it ended a successful string of 17 launches, and came at a particularly sensitive time for Ariane, the commercial arm of the European Space Agency which developed the vehicle.

The accident gives United States rocket manufacturers a chance to recover a large part of the commercial rocket launch business they lost to Ariane after the Challenger space shuttle disaster in 1986.

The European organization controls more than 50 per cent of the commercial world market. But the grounding of the Ariane vehicles, pending a board of inquiry into the fault, will cause an unfortunate delay to the timetable for launching a backlog of 34 satellites worth \$2.25 billion (about £1.3 billion), and in making bids to launch the next generation of satellites.

Although Ariane's launches have become routine and the company has the biggest single share of the international market for rocket services, its programme has suffered several setbacks since it began in 1979.

By May 1982, there had been four failures in 18 Ariane rocket launches. Three of these were in the rocket's third and uppermost stage. The last one, in May 1986, brought a 16-month interruption in launches from the European Space Agency's rocket centre, at Kourou, in French Guiana.

Furthermore, the latest failure of an Ariane 4 vehicle cuts the success rate of firings for the European rockets to 86 per cent. This is almost 10 per cent lower than the reliability figures quoted by US manufacturers to customers and, equally important, to insurance companies.

The Challenger accident produced more than just a gap in the West's

A rocket explosion has threatened the market leadership of Europe's major aerospace firm

launcher capacity which allowed the European industry to capture a large slice of the business. It exposed a flaw in space policy adopted by the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), which was to rely completely on the re-usable shuttle to the exclusion of expendable launch vehicles. This led to closure of production lines of the rocket manufacturers.

The Challenger explosion left the West without any capability to boost large payloads into orbit. American policy was reversed. In fact, the US government has banned the use of the shuttle for commercial launches. Consequently, the major aerospace firms, including US rocket makers Martin Marietta, of Denver, McDonnell Douglas Space Systems of Huntington Beach, California, and General Dynamics, of San Diego, have jumped into the commercial arena with 26 firm contracts.

The rocket that failed last week was one of the fourth generation of Ariane boosters, which were put into service less than two years ago. It was carrying two Japanese communications satellites — Superbird-2, the second in a series of high-power Japanese communications satellites, and BS-2X, a three-channel direct broadcast relay station. Superbird-2's value was as much as \$200 million.

The failure will undoubtedly push already-inflated insurance rates even higher. The rocket blew up 101 seconds into flight. Apparently, the supply of liquid fuel to one of four Viking booster rockets strapped to the first stage of the Ariane failed a few seconds after firing.

M. Frederic d'Allest, president of Arianeespace, said: "We are going to analyze the failures to explain the catastrophe of this flight as rapidly as possible."

Arianeespace, a consortium that includes European aerospace companies, banks and the French national space agency, took over the Ariane programme from the 13-nation European Space Agency in 1980.

The Ariane 4 rockets, developed at a cost of \$575 million, marked a great advance in propulsion capability. Each can carry a payload of 4.6 tons into orbit, against 2.8 tons for Ariane 1. The growth in payload capacity was achieved by lengthening the first stage of the rocket and increasing firing time by 50 per cent.

The Ariane 4 is the most powerful rocket in the Ariane family, capable of boosting 10,000 lb satellites into orbit and comparable to the American Titan-class rockets used to launch heavy military spy satellites.

The flights had become almost routine. Successful missions have been held at the rate of about one a month, with 43 satellites launched since the commercial programme got under way in 1981.

Since taking over the commercial end of the Ariane space programme 10 years ago, Arianeespace has rejected starry visions, like the 1960s moon race, for the down-to-earth goal of making money.

The Challenger tragedy in 1986 left Ariane with an enviable monopoly on the satellite launch business.

Pearce Wright

Common cold cure findings

Drugs against some forms of the common cold could be possible after the discovery that many cold viruses infect cells by sticking to certain "receptor" proteins on the surfaces of the cells. A report in today's issue of *Nature* (vol. 344, pp. 70-72) shows how these receptors can be modified to fool the viruses, diverting them from the cells they would otherwise infect.

The receptor is called Intercellular Adhesion Molecule 1 (ICAM-1), and is vital in the cell-to-cell communication on which rests the functional integrity of the body's immune system. American researcher Steven Martin of Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals of Ridgefield, Connecticut, and his colleagues, have been working on ways of using ICAM-1 to fight infection by rhinoviruses, the family of viruses responsible for 50 per cent of common cold infections.

Rhinoviruses infect cells after sticking very specifically to ICAM-1 receptors bound to cell surfaces.

However, Martin's team has shown that rhinoviruses stick to free-floating, soluble versions of ICAM-1 just as effectively. So soluble ICAM-1 could, in theory, be used as a specific rhinovirus inhibitor, binding to viruses before they can reach ICAM-1 on cell surfaces.

This research compares with a proposed strategy to treat AIDS. The AIDS virus, HIV-1, enters cells after sticking to a cell-surface receptor called CD4. Like ICAM-1, CD4 is a protein that is usually found bound to the cell surface, and is involved in cell-to-cell communication in the immune system. But soluble forms of CD4 act as "decoys" that divert HIV-1 viruses from sticking to cell-surface CD4.

A research team at Genentech, in San Francisco, has done a great deal of research on the CD4 decoy strategy. Last year, the team made soluble CD4 molecules even more effective, by fusing them with ordinary antibody molecules (*Science*, February 9, 1989). But there are still many obstacles before a drug against the common cold becomes practical. First, Martin's team used a very specialized system of cultured cells to demonstrate the efficacy of soluble ICAM-1.

The next stage will be to see whether it works in a living laboratory animal, in which conditions are less controlled. A potential problem has been pointed out by a research team from the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. Charles Bingham and Andrew McMichael have also written an article in *Nature*. They say that, for the decoy to work, there must be a concentration of soluble ICAM-1 in the nasal mucus (the tissues in the nose and sinuses where the infection takes place) high enough to neutralize the invading viruses.

Henry Gee

Genentech, in San Francisco, has done a great deal of research on the CD4 decoy strategy. Last year, the team made soluble CD4 molecules even more effective, by fusing them with ordinary antibody molecules (*Science*, February 9, 1989). But there are still many obstacles before a drug against the common cold becomes practical. First, Martin's team used a very specialized system of cultured cells to demonstrate the efficacy of soluble ICAM-1.

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Henry Gee

Implants for deaf children

British doctors are pioneering an operation which enables children made totally deaf by infections or accidents to hear again at a crucial stage of their development.

Four operations, known as cochlear implants, were carried out last week, on children aged between four and nine years, at University Hospital, Nottingham, the only centre in Britain dedicated to the work in paediatric cases.

The Department of Health no longer regards the surgery as experimental and will fund it with £3 million over the next three years.

At best, the operation allows a previously deaf child to use the telephone; at the very least it lets the youngster recognize potentially life-saving

ing sounds such as a car horn or a fire alarm.

For all such children, acquired total deafness — as distinct from congenital deafness — has a devastating impact, leaving them bewildered and isolated, unable to communicate normally with their parents, or receive a standard education.

Most of the children affected in this way have been struck by bacterial meningitis, and have lost all speech and language within a few months. Conventional hearing aids are useless.

A cochlear implant differs from a hearing aid in that it

does not stimulate the inner ear, or cochlea, with amplified sound vibrations. Instead, when the cochlea has been damaged beyond repair, it bypasses it and stimulates the hearing nerve directly.

The implant consists of a receiver, placed in the mastoid bone behind the ear and about 5mm below the skin, with a series of tiny electrodes placed within the cochlea.

A speech processor, which looks like a personal cassette player, is attached, and a microphone and transmitter are fitted behind the ear.

The transmitter relays the signals to the implanted re-

ceiver and remains in place by means of magnets attached to both. The Australian manufacturers of the devices say that eight out of 10 will be reliable for 70 years.

Only five of the operations have been performed on children in Britain, all at University Hospital, Nottingham. Four were carried out last week with funding from the Ear Foundation charity and Sheffield Health Authority.

Mr Gerard O'Donoghue, the consultant surgeon who carried out the operations, says: "About 1 per cent of children struck by bacterial

meningitis suffer profound or total deafness as a result.

"The illness most often strikes in the first two years of life, a critical period for speech and language development. The disruption caused by the deafness can have devastating effects on a child's educational and intellectual attainment."

"The device allows a means of verbal communication, and will always improve lip reading skills. It is a very emotional moment for the parents when they once again make contact with their child."

There are drawbacks, however. One is financial: the equipment used by the Not-

tingham hospital is the Nucleus cochlear implant, developed in Melbourne, Australia, at a cost of A\$30 million (about £13.5 million) and now priced at £10,000 a patient in Britain.

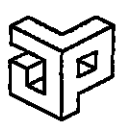
A second problem is that the implants can become infected; a third is that the benefits vary from individual to individual. In all cases, rehabilitation of the child is complex and requires a deep commitment by the parents.

"The technology isn't perfect, but it's improving and we can expect further advances," Mr O'Donoghue says. "With the bargaining power of the Department of Health, the price of the equipment should come down. We're just at the beginning."

Thomson Prentice

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on page 34



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PROGRAM 10

ENGINEERING

Continued on page 34

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A bill for nuclear power

Preliminary action to reduce the exposure to radiation of nuclear power industry workers is being considered this week by the Department of Employment's Health and Safety Executive.

This follows a study by Professor Martin Gardner, of Southampton University, showing that employment at Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant was sufficient to account for the high incidence of leukaemia in West Cumbria. His findings hold important economic implications for the industry.

Purpose-built thick concrete storage chambers and special robot remote-handling machines protect workers against exposure to high levels of radiation. But a residual level of radiation persists that becomes increasingly difficult and expensive to avoid, particularly in the older buildings designed to earlier radiation safety standards.

The British nuclear power industry is likely to face extra costs in safety standards in the same manner as its United States counterpart did after the Three Mile Island accident 12 years ago.

As an interim plan, British Nuclear Fuels has agreed with the Health and Safety Exec-

Britain's nuclear power industry is facing hefty safety costs in the wake of Sellafield, Pearce Wright reports

utive on measures to restrict the time any individual at risk will work in a radiation environment. Special precautions will be taken for newlyweds and workers with young families.



Gardner: renewed controversy

Discussions have also started with British Nuclear Fuels into research needed for greater understanding of the link between leukaemia in children and the father's exposure to radiation from working at the Sellafield plant. This

link was identified by Prof Gardner from a study which showed that the increased levels of childhood cancer in the area was unrelated to other potential sources of environmental contamination from Sellafield, such as eating sea-food from the Irish Sea, home-grown vegetables or playing on the beach.

The report has renewed long-standing controversy over the risks of exposure to low levels of radiation. It is known that the only biological effect of radiation is to destroy tissue, but a question remains over the ability of the body's cells to withstand low levels of exposure.

Safety experts over the past 40 years have gradually reduced the limits recommended for occupational exposure, with an even lower level of exposure advised for the public.

A draft document of a revised set of international safety standards, which has been five years in the making, was being circulated for comment by the International

Commission on Radiological Protection on the same day Prof Gardner's results appeared in the *British Medical Journal*.

In a reply to the commission, advisers to Green-

'A question remains over the ability of the body's cells to withstand low levels of exposure'

peace ask for far more stringent changes that take account of the latest research, and call for the proposed limits to be cut by at least another 10 per cent.

Legally, a British worker can receive up to 50

millisieverts (mSv) of radiation a year, based on international standards.

Almost two years ago the Government's National Radiological Protection Board recommended industry limit exposure to 15 mSv a year.

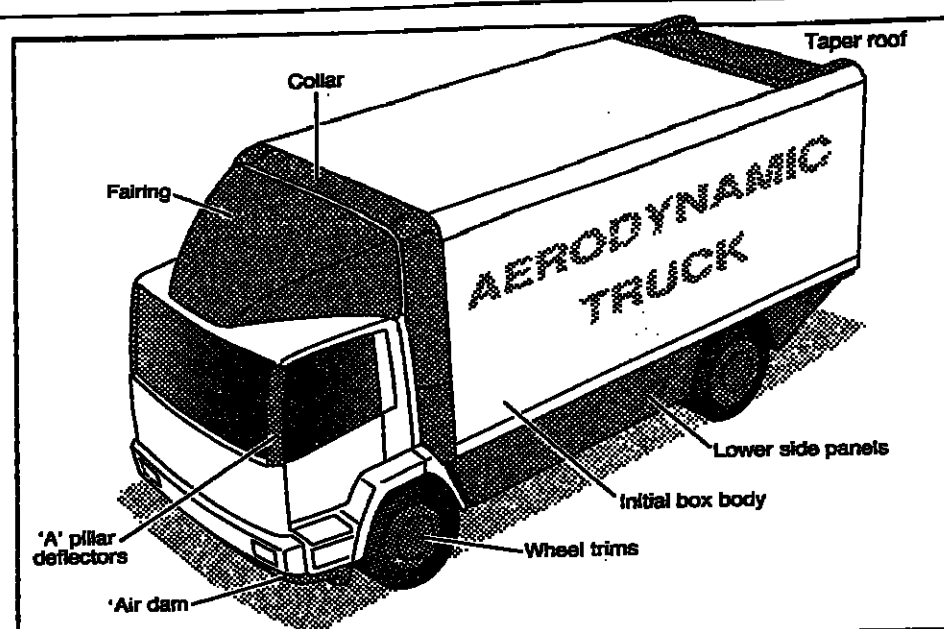
Its advice was based on the same research data available to the international commission.

Few workers in Britain now exceed the 15 mSv level, and British Nuclear Fuels has a policy that determines a measurement of 30 mSv as an "action level". Action is taken to prevent any further exposure to the individual.

But Prof Gardner's study suggested there was a six to eightfold increase in the risk of childhood leukaemia in children of male Sellafield radiation workers who had received no more than 20 mSv in the year leading to conception.

The study also showed a fourfold increase in the risk of childhood leukaemia from an exposure of only 10 mSv in the six months before conception.

If further work corroborates these findings, there will be enormous pressure for tighter safety margins, whatever the economic cost.



Shape of the future

A kit costing less than £1,500, which reduces aerodynamic drag on commercial vehicles, could cut fuel bills by almost one fifth.

In a study partly funded by the Department of Energy, tests were carried out using two pairs of vehicles. Each pair included one standard 17-tonne, box-bodied lorry, fitted with a variety of aerodynamic panels along with an unmodified model. All four joined the Argos distribution fleet for six

months in on-the-road tests. The results were impressive, according to industrial design consultants Ricardo-AS & A, who conducted the project. They say the drag was reduced to a level equivalent to most modern cars.

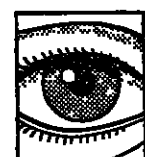
The modified lorries had an overall drop in fuel consumption of 19 per cent, which increased to a maximum of 40 per cent when the lorries ran on motorways at a steady 62mph.

Now the industrial design consultancy, which has a European patent pending on the design, is to offer licences to manufacturers. It also believes a market will exist for kits to be fitted to existing vans which include all the modifications except the tapered roof at the back.

Prices should range from £1,300 to £1,900 a van, depending on how many of the components are fitted.

Matthew May

Improving the view



Radial keratotomy, the type of surgery most widely used to correct near-sightedness, is safe and generally effective, but the success rate is unpredictable. The operation involves making incisions to the cornea of the eye to alter its shape. According to a study of 322 people who have had the treatment, two-thirds of those who had surgery on both eyes were able to see well without glasses or contact lenses four years later. The study, which was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, also revealed that two people had suffered short-term eye infection, and 11 were slightly less able to read the fine lines on a chart following surgery. "We cannot be as sure of the outcome as if we were fitting someone with a pair of glasses," the director of the study, Dr George Waring of Emory University in Atlanta, said, "and we cannot say who will heal the best just by looking at the cornea."

Flying high
Bert Rutan, the aeroplane designer whose Voyager aircraft flew around the world without refuelling in 1986, showed off his latest project this week - a military jet that cost little more than £1 million to develop. A test model of the Ares, which was displayed at Mojave Airport, in the Californian desert, uses a single turbo-fan engine and is made from composite materials such as granite and epoxy. Possible uses include border patrol and reconnaissance duties or, with a 25mm gun, against helicopters. Rutan also says it could also be armed with air-to-air or air-to-ground missiles.

Easy money
Technological improvements in the quality of colour photocopyers are causing concern about counterfeiting. A court in The Netherlands recently ordered the withdrawal of a popular magazine, *Aktueel*, which told readers how to print their own money on colour copiers. The order was sought by the Dutch Central Bank, which argued the article was against the public interest. Pieter de Vries, *Aktueel's* editor, said the article was intended to show how colour copying machines had made it easy to duplicate money. His reporters found no problems in using the fake cash in stores, he said.

A smooth ride
Tyres which can change their pressure according to the surface of the road are being developed by Lotus Engineering in association with Goodyear. High tyre pressures help increase the mileage per gallon of fuel, but give a harsher ride on uneven surfaces and can reduce grip during cornering. The "active air" system will

BRIEFING

use sensors in each tyre to assess road conditions and a computer processor will then deflate or inflate the tyres from a small air compressor in the car. They could be marketed within four years.

Ancient marine

A sample of what is believed to be the Earth's oldest ocean floor has been extracted from the bottom of the Pacific south of Japan. The sample is believed to have come from the middle Jurassic period of 170 million years ago. The age has been determined from the presence of microscopic sea creatures, radiolaria, in the sedimentary rock.

Hamster key



American scientists say they have identified the part of a hamster's brain that serves as a biological clock and they believe that daily rhythms of humans appear to be governed by a similar mechanism. The research, at the University of Virginia, involved transplanting the tissue from brains of hamsters with abnormal "clocks", into normal hamsters. The researchers say their findings show that biological clocks are regulated by the suprachiasmatic nucleus - a small area deep in the hypothalamus. Michael Menaker, chairman of the university's biology department, said the findings could be used by scientists studying brain tissue transplants.

Personal price

A personal computer complete with printer and software went on offer this week for the remarkably low price of £228 (VAT inclusive) from Crown Computer Products (0704 895815). Though now rather a dated computer, the Sanyo MBC 555/2 comes with an Olivetti DM100 printer, the MS DOS 2.1 operating system, as well as the Wordstar word processor and Calstar software. Crown says it has bought a job lot of 5,000 computers, and has already sold several hundred to education authorities. Amstrad discovered a huge untapped market for cheap personal computers with its series of word processor computers that, though not the latest technology, sold well several years ago for the then-low price of £399.

Super charge



A rechargeable battery that supplies almost three times as much power as those on the market, but which weighs less, has been developed by Sony. The lithium ion battery is expected to be used in portable products that use large quantities of electricity, such as lap-top computers, video cameras and mobile telephones. Sony Energytec, the Sony subsidiary, has developed the battery.

Matthew May

A Word to the Wise.

You probably won't get fired for buying WordPerfect. But if you read the reviews, you'll see Microsoft could change that. Word, once sneezed at, now runs under Windows. Slick, powerful and with Mac-like ease of use. You'd be well advised to look at it. Before your boss does.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

It will put you in the picture

Has there been too much hype about high-definition television? It may be outrun by a new extended system before it reaches our homes. Barry Fox reports

In Europe and Japan, the talk in television circles is of how to improve television pictures. High definition television (HDTV), which promises cinema-quality television pictures in the home, but at a high cost, to the cheaper alternative, improved or extended definition television (EDTV).

The Japanese version of this, known as Clear Vision, relies on the adoption of new techniques which make the best of the television systems already in use, rather than introducing completely new technology. Europe is observing with interest.

The idea of EDTV is attractive, because it means that owners of existing television sets have no need to change them. Only those who want clearer pictures would need buy a new set.

Although, to their credit, BBC engineers never boast and draw attention to the fact, they developed just such a system 10 years ago for use with satellites.

It was called Extended PAL (E-PAL), and built on the PAL colour television system now used throughout most of western Europe. E-PAL was considered by a Government committee chaired by Sir Anthony Part, but, in November 1982, it was rejected in favour of the radically different MAC system developed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA).

At the time, this seemed a sound decision. MAC offers clearer pictures, digital sound and an upgraded path to wide-screen HDTV. But time has changed the rules of the game. Europe split the MAC standard, and largely because of the split, MAC's intended adoption as a pan-European satellite system has not materialized.

Last year West Deutsche Rundfunk began experiments with PAL-Plus. The electronics manufacturer Grundig helped because the West German television set maker believes that PAL will remain important in the next 10 years, and that there is room for an improved PAL system with wide screen and better picture quality. It must, however, be compatible with existing receivers.

There are several technical op-

tions. All aim to separate the colour and black and white signals before transmission.

IRT, West Germany's radio research centre (Institut für Rundfunk Technik) wants to transmit separate bursts of colour information, in alternate lines of the television picture. The incoming information is stored in the receiver and spread out over all lines.

The snag is that only half the normal amount of colour signal is being transmitted, so the picture is likely to suffer from untrue colour. The University of Dortmund has gone back to research done by the BBC in 1975 for E-PAL.

The BBC had devised a way of separating the colour and black and white signals with an electrical filter which works in two dimensions, time and frequency, instead of the single dimension, frequency, which is normally used in filters.

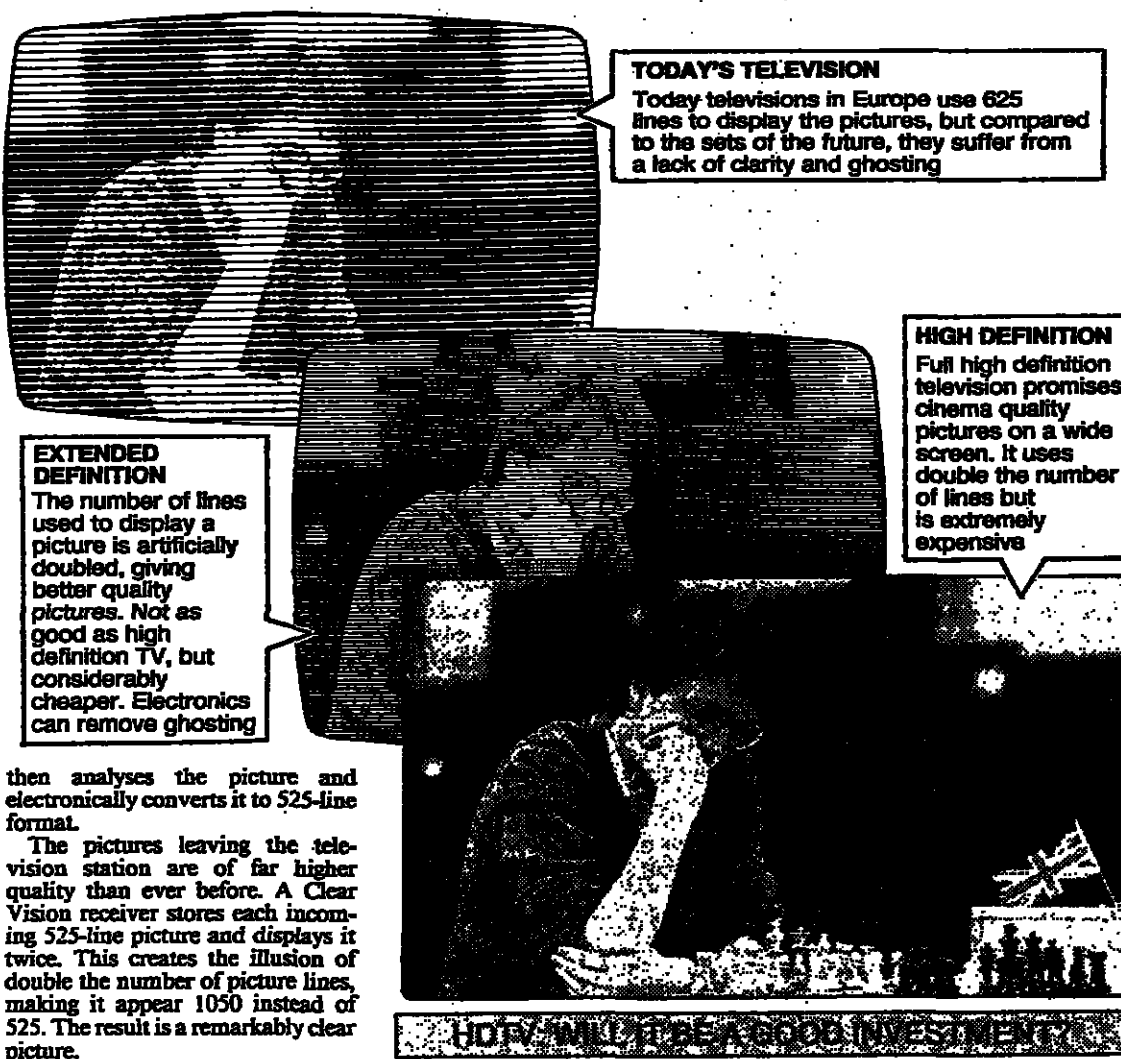
At the time it was impractical to build the filter, but Dortmund has now put the BBC's theory into practice. Grundig is working on a similar approach.

If the new PAL systems can transmit signals which give wide-screen pictures on a 16:9 ratio on new wide-screen sets or 4:3 pictures on conventional sets. There is no urgency on this because, despite vague promises of wide-screen television being just around the corner, the cost of a stretched cathode ray tube is still prohibitive.

Grundig estimates that wide screen sets will cost five times as much as similarly sized 4:3 sets for at least five years. Because the wide-screen pictures must be able to be viewed on existing sets with 4:3 screens, some viewers will either lose the sides of the picture or see a black letterbox border at the top and bottom of the screen.

Since last October, Japanese television stations have been broadcasting five hours a day of their programmes in Clear Vision, an extended definition system.

For Clear Vision transmission, the television station uses a 1125-line HDTV camera in the studio instead of a conventional 525-line camera. Equipment in the studio



TODAY'S TELEVISION

Today's televisions in Europe use 625 lines to display the pictures, but compared to the sets of the future, they suffer from a lack of clarity and ghosting

HIGH DEFINITION

Full high definition television promises cinema quality pictures on a wide screen. It uses double the number of lines but is extremely expensive

EXTENDED DEFINITION

The number of lines used to display a picture is artificially doubled, giving better quality pictures. Not as good as high definition TV, but considerably cheaper. Electronics can remove ghosting

then analyses the picture and electronically converts it to 525-line format.

The pictures leaving the television station are of far higher quality than ever before. A Clear Vision receiver stores each incoming 525-line picture and displays it twice. This creates the illusion of double the number of picture lines, making it appear 1050 instead of 525. The result is a remarkably clear picture.

Owners of existing television sets go on receiving 525-line pictures as if nothing has happened.

Ghost images on screen have been cut out with Clear Vision using a ghost cancel reference, GCR, signal to one line (number 18) of the picture signal.

The GCR signal is a brief pulse of clearly defined shape. Conventional receivers ignore it, but Clear Vision receivers generate a pure pulse internally and compare it with the incoming pulse. The receiver analyses the mis-match and doctors the incoming picture signal to "remove the ghosts". American television stations want to use the GCR system.

Japanese television stations will soon experiment with a second generation system which adds side panels to the transmitted pictures.

These new Clear Vision receivers will be able to display wide-screen television pictures.

When extended definition television was demonstrated to a small group of western journalists in Japan recently, our immediate reaction was that if this could be done with the pretty awful 625-line system used in America and Japan, think what could be done with 625-line system used in Europe.

It also raised the question of whether anyone would need full blown high definition television in the home. The enhanced definition pictures, on large-screen domestic television sets, were very bright and clear: the best broadcast pictures I have seen on a home receiver.

The complete absence of ghosting in the picture, thanks to the new ghost cancellation circuits, contributed to the illusion of clarity. Most television sets suffer from some ghosting when receiving programmes from terrestrial transmitters, which explains why satellite transmissions can look clearer. Extended definition television also

scores over HDTV because the pictures are brighter. To display the fine detail in an HDTV picture, the electron beam in the cathode ray tube of an HDTV set must be very finely focused. This means it cannot carry the energy needed to produce pictures as bright as we expect from conventional sets.

The recent demonstrations of the Japanese Clear Vision sets and the private showings of prototype extended definition PAL systems, given in Europe, leave me in no doubt that HDTV in the home would be expensive overkill.

The one remaining benefit of HDTV for the home would be the wide screen ratio, which is a standard feature of the system. But if engineers can devise ways of transmitting wide-screen programmes on 625-line systems, giving viewers the choice of watching in either old or new ratio, then the attraction of HDTV in the home must surely pale.

Barry Fox

Information's call to women

Women are needed to fill information technology's depleted ranks

The Women in Information Technology Foundation will be launched today as part of a plan to increase the number of women in an industry facing a severe shortage of experienced staff.

Women make up less than a quarter of information technology staff employed in the private sector, and they occupy far fewer senior positions than their male counterparts. Less than 10 per cent of computing undergraduates are women.

Companies realise they need to change the image of the industry and their employee policies to correct the imbalance.

The civil service also has only a small number of women involved in information technology at a senior level. The Government's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) says 30 per cent of programmers employed by Government departments are women. Only 14 per cent of senior positions are filled by women, however.

The recruitment programme began last year with a study into industry support for a campaign to help women in hi-tech jobs.

Companies, including British Petroleum, Hewlett-Packard, the Post Office and ICL, have pledged financial support totalling almost half a million pounds for the foundation in its first year. The Department of Trade and Industry is expected to contribute up to 244,000 over three years.

"The response from industry has been very positive and we are working closely with educational establishments," Penny Tait, chairman of the foundation's council of directors, says. "The campaign will run for the next three years at least."

Working parties are studying and implementing cam-

aigns directed at schoolgirls, graduates and women returning to the work-force.

One group examining recruitment methods says many employers using information technology are "wedded to restrictive selection methods". Company training for example, is set up almost exclusively for people under 25 and with no family commitments.

Companies using information technology, including BP, British Telecom, Digital Equipment and IBM, have improved their links with schools by giving lectures, donating equipment and inviting students to work alongside a professional for short periods.

The first Women in Software Engineering Update (WISE-UP) course, aimed at women who have taken a break from their career, began in January at Reading University.

A few companies have already shown that women will work in the industry if they are encouraged. ICL has employed a largely female staff, working from home, for 20 years. Other companies are beginning to offer similar options. The FI Group was established to exploit this opportunity and is now a £20 million concern.

ICL has also introduced a career break scheme of up to two years for all employees. A condition of the scheme is that the employee be available for at least four weeks each year and for training in every break year.

Information technology companies are also offering child care facilities for parents, following the lead of several banks and insurance companies. Digital Equipment opened its first child care centre in Reading, Berkshire, recently, and other companies say they are considering setting up similar facilities. However a report published by the Institute of Personnel Management claims less than 3 per cent of private sector employers provide child care assistance for their employees.

Leslie Tilley

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page 32

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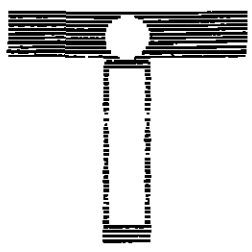
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Continued from page 32

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New look for an ancient land

Andalusia, steeped in history and tradition, has begun a wide-ranging modernization plan as it prepares to celebrate Expo '92 and the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America. Peter Strafford reports

Andalusia has long had a distinctive and colourful image as the land of flamenco and bull-fighting, coupled with a reputation for backwardness. The relics of a distant past — the Alhambra in Granada, the huge cathedral of Seville — have loomed larger than the achievements of the present.

The main contribution of the region to contemporary life has been the glittering, and sometimes seedy, tourist resorts along the Costa del Sol.

A concentrated effort is being made to change this picture. Expo '92, a world fair, or "universal exhibition", which will bring together at least 103 countries from around the globe, as well as international organizations and multinational companies, will be

'Its character is baroque: not linear and direct, but sinuous, a mix of elements and stamped by the past'

held in Seville in 1992, and it is being made the focus for an extensive modernization plan. The Spanish government intends to spend more than £4 billion on the improvement of communications both to the region and within it. A high-speed train link is to be created between Seville and Madrid, a network of motorways is being built, and airports are being extended, all with the aim of launching the region into a more prosperous future.

The year 1992 will be an important one for the European Community as a whole, as the culmination of the programme to create a single market. But for Spain it will be particularly significant as the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World.

Expo '92 will open on April 20, 1992, and will close on October 12, five hundred years to the day

from the first sighting of land by Columbus.

The hope is that it will shed a favourable light on the new, democratic Spain, and on Andalusia, where Columbus's voyage began — from the port of Palos, on the Atlantic coast — and that it will also provide a new impetus to the region's economy, helping it to catch up with more prosperous areas further north.

For the moment it means that Andalusia is covered with building sites, as roads are driven across mountain and plain, and renovation is carried out in the cities. But officials talk confidently of having everything ready on the day, and they claim that there have already been results.

José Luis Ballester, secretary general of the office of the commissioner general for Expo

'92, says that, whereas provisional figures for 1989 show the Spanish economy as a whole growing by 5 per cent, that of Andalusia grew by 6.2 per cent, and metropolitan Seville by no less than 8.9 per cent. Andalusia, as one of Spain's poorest regions, is starting

from a low base, he concedes. But he says that if present rates of growth are maintained until 1992, it will catch up with the country's most developed regions, and that by making use of the facilities created for Expo '92 it will be able to maintain that level of development.

The exhibition will not be a one-off affair. After it is over, the site will become a centre for research and development, partly occupied by faculties of the University of Seville and partly by multinational companies that have committed themselves to remaining. The intention is that it should



A fine blend of tradition and beauty: the Lady Tower in the Partal gardens of the Alhambra in Granada

serve as a further stimulus to investment.

What is happening is that like Catalonia, whose capital, Barcelona, will be host of the 1992 Olympic Games, Andalusia is using Expo '92 as a spur to carry out development work that would in any case be needed but would otherwise not be done so soon.

The hope is that it can wipe out the stigma of backwardness, and recover something of the prosperity that it knew in the 16th century, when galleons from the Americas used to put in at Seville. There is still some way to go. But since 1982, Andalusia, like other regions of Spain, has had autonomous status and its own regional government, the *Junta*, controlled since it began by the Socialist Party.

This has given it greater control over its affairs, and while Spain as a whole has had fast economic growth, Andalusian rates have been higher than the average.

In recent years tourism has become the main contributor to the regional economy. But agriculture, long the mainstay of the region, remains important, and there has also been a significant

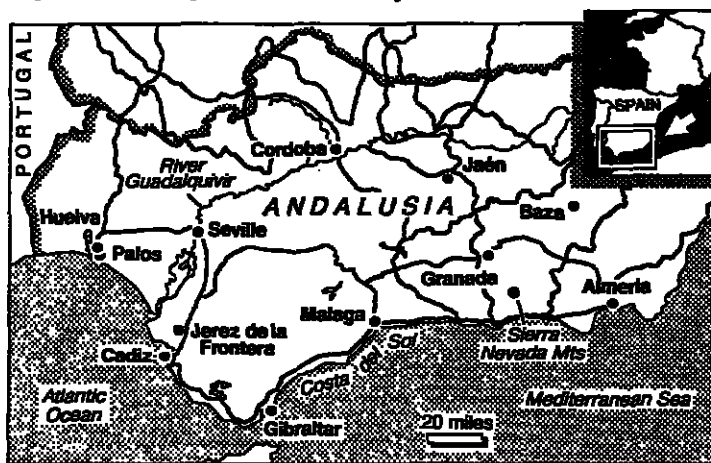
increase in the industrial sector, helped by foreign investment.

Unemployment continues to be high, particularly among unskilled workers. But emigration, in the past a bane of Andalusian life, has largely ended.

Unlike Catalonia and the Basque country, Andalusia has virtually no separatist movement. It has a small nationalist party, the Partido Andalucista, but Alejandro Rojas Marcos, its founder, says that the region has never

known the "temptation" of separatism. The party's aim is not independence, but a greater degree of autonomy.

Rojas Marcos says, however, that although it no longer has its own language, Andalusia has as distinctive a character as any region of Spain; and there is no doubt that it has been strongly marked by its long history, and in particular the long period during which it was occupied and ruled by the Muslims — almost 800



years in the case of Granada and the surrounding areas.

There is an easy-going pace to life in Andalusia, together with a taste for intrigue.

Jaime Montaner, a former architect who is the councillor responsible for public works in the regional government, describes the Andalusian character as baroque: like baroque architecture, he says, it is not linear and direct, but sinuous, consisting of a mix of different elements and stamped by the past.

The region has certainly made its mark on contemporary Spanish politics. Felipe González, the Socialist prime minister, comes from Seville, and so do many of his closest colleagues.

The Socialist Party, with its moderate, social-democratic policies, was largely created in Andalusia, in the period before and after the death of General Franco in 1975, and the region is one of its strongholds.

The party is now confronted with a scandal, however, centring on Andalusia and the activities of Juan Guerra, brother of Alfonso Guerra, the deputy prime minister.

Juan Guerra, who held no official position, had the use of a Spanish government office in Seville, and is alleged to have exerted undue influence to amass an enormous fortune in property, turning him from an unemployed book salesman into a multi-millionaire.

The affair has already had repercussions in Madrid, because Alfonso Guerra is regarded as one of the most powerful people in the Socialist Party, exercising great influence behind the scenes.

He made a statement in parliament, which did not convince his critics. However, González felt bound to support him by saying that if Guerra was forced out he too would resign.

The question now posed is whether the Juan Guerra case is an isolated one, as the Socialist Party maintains, or is part of a wider web of corruption.

In Andalusia, where there is to be a regional election in June, the Socialists are under attack from the conservatives of the Partido Popular, the communists of Izquierda Unida, and the Partido Andalucista.

At issue is whether they will retain the overall majority that they have had until now.

Britain's original flair for Expo

Britain's contribution to Expo '92 is to have as its theme "Original Britain". The British pavilion, which has been designed by Nicholas Grimshaw, with Ove Arup & Partners as consulting engineers, is intended to project the image of an innovative nation, and to compete for the attention of visitors with those of the 102 or more other countries taking part (Peter Strafford writes).

It will be one of the biggest, and will stand next door to the West German pavilion — or possibly that of a united Germany if German reunification has taken place by then.

The two of them will be at one end of the European Boulevard, where all the members of the European Community will be grouped. The large Spanish pavilion will be at the other end.

No decisions have been taken yet by the Department of Trade and Industry on the displays in the interior of the pavilion. But the Government has decided that Britain should take a high profile at Expo '92, and the displays can be expected to concentrate on British inventiveness in a wide range of areas — among them technology, engineering, design, fashion, music, the media, and culture in general.

The pavilion is described as "a modern Crystal Palace". It will be rectangular in shape and made of glass and steel. It will be the height of a six-storey building, and will have a "wall of water" the length of its facade, with water running down curved glass.

At one end will be a large, transparent Union Jack, with the colours picked out in coloured glass.

On the roof there will be solar panels, which will provide some of the pavilion's energy. Inside, there will be live entertainment and, below ground level, a restaurant.

The Government is contributing £25 million, which will pay for the building of the pavilion, the mounting of displays, and the running costs for six months.

However, British companies are being encouraged to support the project, in exchange for the benefits of sponsorship.

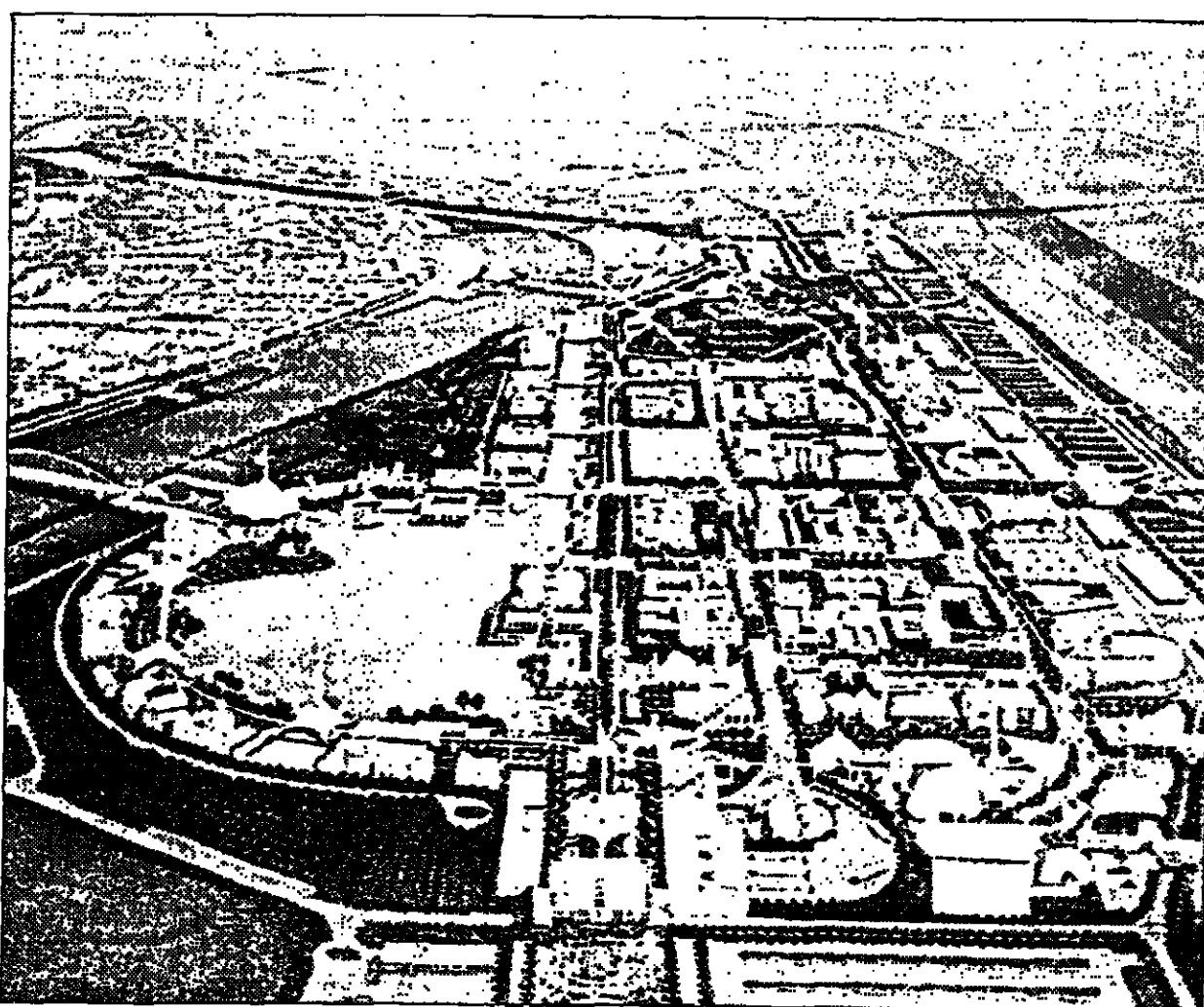
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April 20 (Easter Monday) 1992 - October 12 (Columbus Day) 1992

Britain's original flair for Expo

Britain's contribution to the 1992 World Expo in Seville is to have a pavilion which, designed by Norman Foster, will be the most original and innovative of the 102 or more official buildings.

It will be one of the most modern pavilions ever built, and will be the most original and innovative of the 102 or more official buildings.

The pavilion is designed by Norman Foster, who has designed many other major buildings, including the Lloyd's building in London and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation building in Hong Kong.

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Big money for the switch to industry

Economic growth in Andalusia is the fastest in Spain, Jane Monahan writes. Tourism has been a big factor, but manufacturing is now improving

Large estates — the *latifundios* — and gross inequalities still exist side by side in Andalusia. The region has one of Spain's highest rates of unemployment and of illiteracy. Yet at no time this century have there been so many opportunities for Andalusia to achieve economic progress.

The most publicized is Expo '92, Seville's international fair, which is attracting all sorts of investment — at least to Seville, the region's capital. But Expo '92 alone will not raise the average yearly income of Andalusia's seven million inhabitants, now £4,700, to average European Community, or even northern Spanish, standards. Nor will it bridge the growing divisions within the region.

Tourism is concentrated on the coast, particularly the Costa del Sol. The coast also has the most competitive farming areas, able to take advantage of the Community's markets. The interior is more backward.

However, Salvador Durán, the regional government's secretary general in charge of the economy, says the fair is only one development, and not the most important one, of those that will help Andalusia to move from an economy based on agriculture and tourism to one that is more industrialized and technologically advanced.

It is striking, he says, that since 1983 Andalusia's economy has grown faster than

that of Spain as a whole. This is all the more spectacular because since 1986 Spain's economy has itself grown faster than that of any other Community country.

Andalusia's growth has been across all areas. In recent years, services, almost exclusively in tourism, have grown fastest, accounting now for 60 per cent of regional income. Though the share of agriculture and fisheries has been declining since 1986, now representing 12.5 per cent of the total, production has increased even in those areas.

At the same time industry is becoming more diversified. It includes shipbuilding, car components and aeronautics factories in Cadiz, an aeroplane assembly plant in Seville, an incipient food-processing industry, surprisingly neglected in the past, and shoes, leather, textiles, ceramics and furniture.

Industry produced 20 per cent of the income in 1989. It still has a long way to go, however, before it reaches 30 per cent of gross national product, the average in Community countries. Construction accounts for 7.5 per cent and is also growing, mainly thanks to state investments in infrastructure.

One long-standing problem is unemployment, illustrated by the two million Andalusians who migrated to northern Spain and the rest of Europe to seek work between the late 1950s and the early 1970s. That has stopped recently as the economy has

picked up, and last year's figures showed a continuing improvement — 16.7 per cent more employed in construction and 7.8 per cent more in tourism during the first nine months than in the corresponding nine months of 1988.

But most of these jobs were temporary or part-time, while in industry, where most full-time, long-term jobs are created, employment grew by only 3.5 per cent. Although unemployment fell by 6 per cent in the three years to the end of 1989, it is still 26 per cent, 10 percentage points above the national average.

The comparatively small number of long-term jobs being created in industry is one obstacle to overcoming unemployment. Another is that Andalusia's unemployment is most pronounced among people with little professional training. A typical outlier, for unemployed males, is temporary construction work.

By contrast, Andalusia has a shortage of skilled construction workers. A further factor is that the region's population is growing at the fast annual rate of 6 per cent.

Officials in Madrid and Seville, however, are confident the region will sustain growth above the national average until 1993, and that between now and then 450,000 new jobs — though most of them temporary — will be created, primarily through public funds. The



Sherry, produced in such bodegas as this in the area around Jerez de la Frontera, is one of Andalusia's most distinctive products (Jane MacQuitty writes). Most of it is exported, and Britain is the principal market. In recent years the market for the Spanish product has declined, hit by changing drinking habits and the arrival of low-quality imitations from elsewhere that have undercut Spanish prices and damaged the image of Spanish sherry. The Spanish are angry that these other producers are allowed to use the name of sherry, which derives from Jerez. But they are fighting back. They already have markets in The Netherlands and West Germany, and are looking for new outlets in France, Japan and the United States. They draw confidence from a renewed interest among the British in such specialist sherries as fino and manzanilla, with their fine bone-dry qualities; and from the comeback being made by first-class specialist sweet sherries. The demand for first-class sherry is there among discerning drinkers. Producers and importers are aiming to revive their market and restore sherry's image by concentrating on the quality sector.

huge total of 2.4 trillion pesetas (£13.7 billion), 30 per cent of the 1989-93 regional development plan funds, is allocated to Andalusia by the Madrid government — many of whose members, including Felipe González, the prime minister, were born in Andalusia — and by the region's autonomous government.

For its part, the European Commission devoted 159.6

million pesetas, 30 per cent of all its structural funds for Spain, to Andalusia in 1986-89, the country's first three years of Community membership. It was the biggest allocation for any Spanish region.

One target for the investment is communications. The Community, for instance, is contributing 19.5 billion of the 40 billion pesetas needed for a motorway travelling east from

Seville to Baza and linking up with another motorway that will eventually run the entire length of Spain's eastern Mediterranean coast to Jaén, Andalusia's poorest province.

The Community is also trying to provide young Andalusians with a professional training, and to retrain the older unemployed in skills that can be used locally.

The Andalusian government hopes to attract investment for research into advanced technology projects such as robotics, computer software and biotechnology. A new science park, covering 860 acres and costing nine billion pesetas, is being prepared near Malaga.

One of the most encouraging developments, Durán says, is that Andalusian businessmen are investing in new plant and creating new companies — they have always been reluctant to invest in their own region.

By contrast, since 1986 Andalusia has received more direct foreign investment than any other part of Spain, except Madrid and Catalonia. It has been put into sectors ranging from food-processing to insurance, textiles, car components and tourism.

New deals for farmers, and their workers

Andalusia accounts for a fourth of Spain's farm output, and long used to be a byword for its under-exploited estates, absentee landlords and militant farm labourers' unions (Jane Monahan writes). But changes are taking place as a result of government reforms and the opportunities offered by Spanish membership of the European Community.

An agrarian reform law was adopted in 1982 allowing the state to expropriate farms found to be "manifestly improvable", and that has discouraged under-exploitation. At the same time there has been far less of the kind of social unrest that was led by the radical day-labourers' union (SOC) in the early 1980s, such as "symbolic" land occupations, marches

and hunger strikes. One reason is the treatment of unemployed farm labourers. The Franco system, which put rural spare labour to work in mainly redundant — and often felt to be demeaning — tasks, such as ditch-clearing and hedge-clipping, has been scrapped. Farm workers are now entitled to much the same sort of unemployment welfare, medical assistance, youth training schemes and pensions as the urban work-force.

Pressure from day labourers for land redistribution has also been blunted by the creation of 130 agricultural co-operatives in the region since Spain joined the EC. And farmers have been encouraged to invest more in their land.

Small wonder, then, that productivity has greatly improved, and that farms are increasingly mechanized — even those that grow labour-intensive crops such as cotton.

The traditional crops are olives — 80 per cent of Spain's olive oil comes from the region — cereals for human consumption, a third of Spain's total output, and wine grapes. These are still fundamental, but their importance is declining. One reason is the Community's olive oil and wine surpluses, so that 2.4 million acres of vines are to be replaced with other crops, and olive oil production cut.

More intensive farming, especially of livestock and horticulture, is now being promoted, to help make the region self-sufficient in livestock products and able to export such products as artichokes and asparagus.

Another change is that in three years Andalusia has switched almost completely from short-grain to long-grain rice, imported until now by the Community from India.

But the most successful example of intensive farming is the development of hot-house vegetable and fruit production on the coast. This "economic miracle" began in Almería in the 1960s, and now huge areas of Granada and Malaga are also under plastic. Sheltered by mountains from northerly winds, these areas provide almost subtropical conditions.

The farms are mainly small family holdings, though there are also co-operatives. Their products include early tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, green beans, lettuce, strawberries and melons. The farms have also developed exotic fruits — mangoes, custard-apples and medlars — along with flowers, mainly carnations, and avocado pears.

The experiment has become one of Spain's most dynamic economic sectors. The snag is that the sinking of wells for water to irrigate the new farms has caused a serious fall in the water table. This and the intrusion of salt water have led the regional government to adopt measures to avert serious water shortages.

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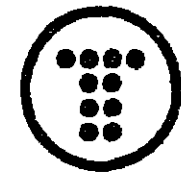
At the Spanish Consulate, London

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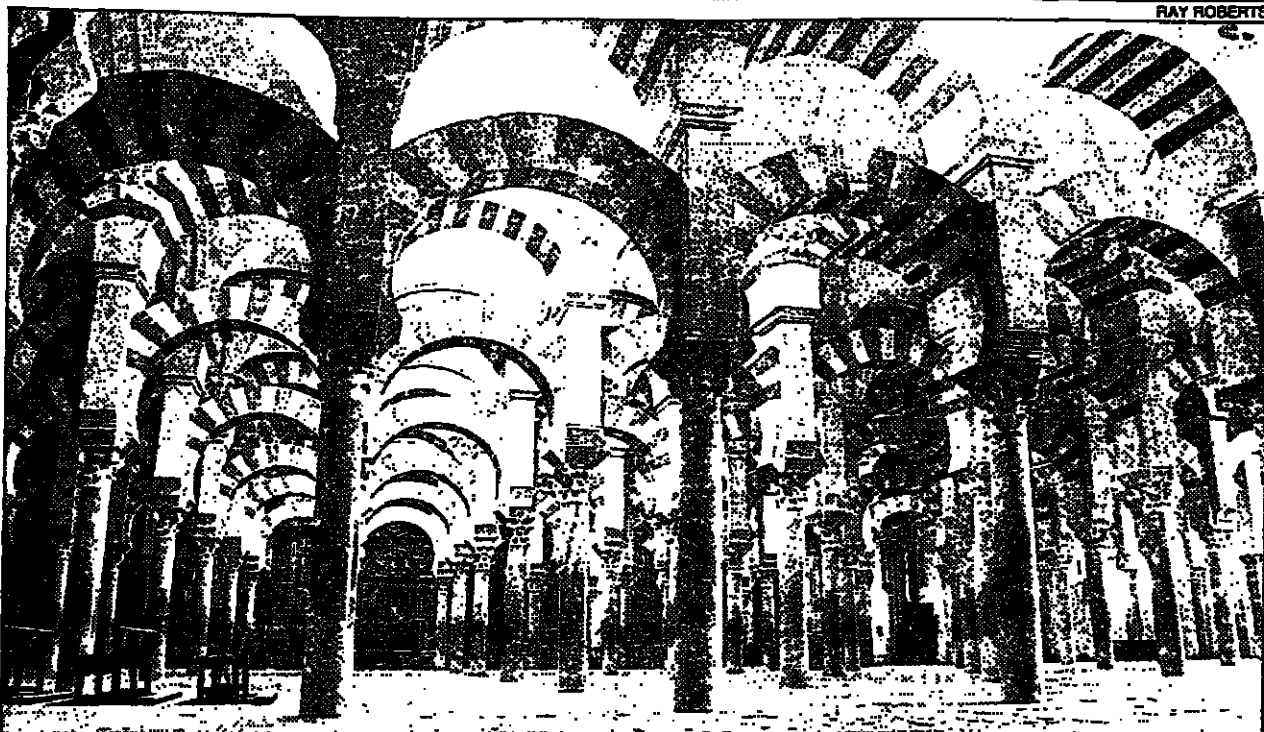
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The peoples who left their treasures behind

The Muslims and the Jews also figured in 1492. Peter Strafford describes their rich legacy

As the Spanish prepare to celebrate the 500th anniversary of their *annus mirabilis*, 1492, when Christopher Columbus discovered the New World, there are two events of that year to which they are not drawing attention. One is the defeat of the last Muslim kingdom in Spain, Granada, which completed the reconquest of the Iberian peninsula. The other is the expulsion of the Jews.

There are obvious diplomatic reasons in both cases. But at the same time it is now recognized that both peoples made a significant contribution to the development of Spain, helping to give it its distinct identity, and that they should themselves be commemorated. That applies especially in Andalusia, where their influence was greatest.

The Muslims crossed the Strait of Gibraltar in 711, and quickly occupied most of the Iberian peninsula, which they called Al-Andalus. They were a mixed force, under Arab leadership, but also including Syrians, Berbers and Moors. Though their power declined over the centuries, they remained in Andalusia for nearly 800 years, and their influence on Spanish art and architecture continued long after the fall of Granada.

The Jews, too, were an important community in the years before 1492, not least in the heyday of Muslim Cordoba. Cordoba still has its Juderia, and Seville its Barrio

de Santa Cruz, two formerly Jewish districts that are now an attractive maze of narrow winding streets, running between white-painted houses with ironwork balconies.

The Muslim presence is illustrated by the remarkable monuments that remain, chiefly in Cordoba, Seville and Granada. They date from different periods in the long occupation, and illustrate the vicissitudes through which the various Muslim rulers passed.

The first centre of Arab rule in Al-Andalus was Cordoba. In 756 Abd al-Rahman I, the last survivor of the Umayyad dynasty of Damascus, established an independent emirate with its capital there, and Cordoba became an important political and cultural centre, which outshone anywhere else in Western Europe. Its ruler took the title of caliph in 929.

That is the period of the great mosque of Cordoba, with its forest of pillars, its red and white horseshoe-shaped arches, and its glittering *mihrab*, marking the direction of Mecca. After the later recapture of Cordoba by the Christians a cathedral was built in the middle of it, but the grandeur of the mosque, built in different phases from the eighth to the 10th centu-

ries, can still be appreciated. Rule over Cordoba collapsed in 1031. This led to a splintering of Muslim power in Spain and to two further incursions from Muslim Africa, by the Almoravids in 1086-1090, and the Almohads in 1146. Muslim Spain became in turn a province of their respective empires.

The Giralda in Seville, now the bell tower of the cathedral and the dominant landmark of the city, dates from the Almohad period - as does the Gold Tower by the river, once part of the fortifications. The Giralda is now topped by a 16th-century belfry, but it was originally the minaret of the Almohad mosque, and the main shaft's austere but delicate decoration is similar to those of contemporary minarets in North Africa.

The final phase of Muslim rule began in the middle of the 13th century, when the Christians had reconquered most of Spain, including Cordoba and Seville, but the Muslim kingdom of Granada, ruled by the Nasrid dynasty, remained. It survived for two and a half centuries, and its monument is the Alhambra, the fortress and palace that was largely

built in the 14th century and still dominates the modern Granada.

Its outer walls are powerful, but it gives the impression that the Nasrids, no longer a dominant military power in Spain, were more interested in the enjoyment of art and leisure pursuits.

The Alhambra, like the Generalife on a neighbouring hillside, is an exquisitely designed palace of courtyards, fountains and gardens, and is one of the greatest achievements of Islamic architecture.

Muslim influence made itself felt in the much less sophisticated Christian kingdoms. In the 14th century, when Peter the Cruel, the Christian King of Castile, wanted to build a palace in the old fortress, or *alcázar*, of Seville, he turned not to Christian models, but to those of the Muslims of Granada.

His palace is comparable in style to the Alhambra, with similar decoration in its delicately proportioned rooms and courtyards, and even invocations in Arabic script to Allah. Much of the palace was designed by Muslims, and the style, known as *mudejar*, or the work of Muslims working to Christian orders, long continued to be a feature of architecture in Spain.

There is a striking example in the Casa de Pilatos in Seville, a grandiose townhouse, which was built in *mudejar* style in 1540 and shows the continuing influence of the country's former rulers.

Centuries of discovery

Seville will be host to the biggest ever world exhibition, constructed on a man-made island

Expo '92, the world fair to be held in Seville in 1992, has been timed to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World (Peter Strafford writes). Its organizers have chosen "The Age of Discovery" as its theme, and that will be interpreted in their various ways by the countries and organizations taking part.

There will be a record number of participants. So far, 103 countries have signed up and will have pavilions of their own. The number is well above the figures for the three previous exhibitions of this kind: Osaka in 1970 (77), Montreal in 1967 (62), and Brussels in 1958 (52).

In addition, 19 international organizations, including the European Community, and about 20 multinational corporations will take part; and every one of Spain's 17 autonomous regions will have its pavilion.

For the moment, much of the exhibition area looks like little more than a building site. But that is deceptive, because work began in January 1987 and since then progress has been made on the huge task of providing roads, electrical power, plumbing, wiring, landscaping, and all the facilities needed to cater for the exhibition pavilions - and the expected 18 million visitors.

The foundations have been laid for the lake and canal,



Symbol of 1492: the monastery where Columbus's family stayed stands on the exhibition site

which will be one of the main features of the exhibition. New groves of transplanted palm trees are already in place, a small proportion of the 15,000 trees that are being brought on to the site to provide shade and colour.

The site is a convenient one, a man-made island within walking distance of the centre of Seville, which had almost no buildings on it until 1987. Known as La Cartuja, it was formed in 1975, when, in order to put an end to the flooding of low-lying Seville by the Guadalquivir River, a new river bed was dug further to the west. La Cartuja lies between the old and the new arms of the river.

But it also has symbolic significance. La Cartuja means Carthusian, and on it there are the surviving buildings of a 15th-century Carthusian monastery, Santa Maria de las Cuevas, where Columbus often stayed, and where he and other members of his family were buried - though Columbus's own remains were later removed.

More recently, in 1839, after the monastery had been aban-

doned, its buildings were bought by a British industrialist, Charles Pickman, who built a pottery in them. As a result there is a striking contrast between the tall kilns of the pottery and the monastery chapel with its *mudejar*, or Muslim, style.

But Pickman was highly thought of by the Spanish authorities of the day, who created him Marqués de Pickman, and the pottery is seen as symbolic of the industrial revolution. So while the monastery is being extensively restored, and will be used by King Juan Carlos as the site for his own personal pavilion, the kilns will remain in the background.

Expo '92 will be open from April 20 to October 12, 1992. Planning is based on the expectation that many of the visitors will come more than once, making a total of 37 million visits. They will be able to see not just the pavilions put up by the various countries and organizations taking part, but exhibitions on single themes put up by the Spanish organizers, on such topics as

navigation, discoveries, and present and future. A cable car will bring visitors across the river to the exhibition and a monorail will take them round it. Fountains and vegetation are being used in an effort to reduce the effect of the heat.

Once the exhibition is over, the site will remain active as a centre for research and development. It will mean that Seville, which until now has tended to expand to the east, away from the Guadalquivir, will spread across the river to the west. Two new bridges have already been built, and seven new ones are planned.

The overall cost, of course, is formidable. But while the public authorities will pay for the main communications projects across Andalusia, the calculation is that Expo '92 will pay for itself.

There will be income from ticket sales, and rent for the buildings after 1992. But about 40 per cent of the cost is expected to be covered by sponsorship and other such arrangements, and the organizers speak confidently of raising a record sum on an occasion of this sort.

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السياحة

ATHLETICS

Elliott's European campaign overrides assault on records

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

Peter Elliott is preparing himself for a busy summer. He will start it by experimenting at 3,000 metres and then, he hopes, by winning the European championship at 1,500 metres. In between there are world-record attempts at 1,500 metres and the mile to ensure that he will not see too much of Rotherham, where he lives. The events of the past month have not so much drained his energies as fed them.

Elliott's world indoor 1,500 metres record, his first world record of any description, in Seville on Tuesday evening, came within four weeks of his first international championship gold medal, over the same distance, at the Commonwealth Games. "I am going to attempt 1,500 metres and mile records at some point in this summer, but I am not going to jeopardize my main aim, the European championships, by racing too much or chasing the world records," he said.

There remains a 1,500 metres vacancy on the British team for the European indoor championships, at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, this weekend, but Elliott has said all along that his winter season would end in Seville. In an extraordinary run of success, he has won 15 successive races, indoors, outdoors and on cross

country. "This was my last indoor race of the season and it was the perfect way to end it," he said.

"It was my first world record and, hopefully, it will be the first of a few. It was only an indoor record and I will be more excited if I can break the world 1,500 or mile record outdoors this summer. Everything has gone well so far and I am crossing my fingers that it will continue throughout the summer." He intends to start the season with the 3,000 metres at the United Kingdom championships in early June.

In improving Marcus O'Sullivan's world record by more than a second, Elliott cleared the confusion surrounding it. The record, according to the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), was 3min 35.66sec. Statisticians argued, however, that the record should have been 3min 35.46sec because that was the time O'Sullivan ran in 1988 before the slower one in 1989. The IAAF did not accept the 1988 time because there was only one stopwatch on it, but the same circumstances prevailed when O'Sullivan ran a faster time 12 months ago.

Elliott recorded 3min 34.21sec. His pacemaker, Ken Washington, took him through 800 metres in 1min 54.88sec. "I was hoping that he

would take me to 1,000 metres but he was tiring, so I had to go it alone from 800 metres," Elliott said. When Elliott attempted to improve Eamonn Coghlan's world mile record in New Jersey three weeks ago, he reached 800 metres in 1min 53sec; the more even pace this time secured the accomplishment.

Since the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, Elliott has raced indoors in New Jersey, Los Angeles, Glasgow, Stockholm and Seville. In between he has been to work. One of the few elite British athletes who holds down a job, he does a 4½-hour day at a Rotherham steel plant. "I can't stand talking about running all the time," he said.

Time off this summer will be no problem. He has an understanding employer: three years ago Elliott was offered a year off with pay to prepare for the Olympics but turned it down. He would not be able to face his mates, he said, if he failed.

Charlie Spedding has withdrawn from this year's ADT London Marathon. Spedding, aged 37, who won the race in 1984, the same year he took the Olympic bronze medal, has been plagued by Achilles tendon problems and has been unable to complete a marathon since finishing sixth in the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

BRISTOL HOMES LEAGUE: Walsley Insurance Cup. Fourth round, second leg. Huddersfield v Gloucester.

FOOTBALL: FA Cup. Fourth round, second leg. Huddersfield v Gloucester.

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SPORT ON TV

BASKETBALL: Europe 8-10pm: Highlights from the European Cup.

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Marathon debut to help handicapped children

An appeal chairman leading by example

By Alex Ramsey

Where would we all be without him? In Graham Cliffe's case, he certainly would not be taking part in the ADT London Marathon as one of the runners.

Six years ago he met Trevor Hoddinott, headmaster of the Holly Bank School for mentally and physically disabled children, and just over a year ago this friendship led to Cliffe becoming the chairman of the Holly Bank Appeal to finance the move to new premises in Miffield. He also found himself volunteering to raise £20,000 by running in the marathon.

"About two or three months ago I thought I ought to improve my fitness level and lose a little weight," he said. "I'm a court registrar and it is a fairly sedentary job. Then, in January, I saw the article in *The Times* and, in a fit of enthusiasm, I said I would run the marathon."

So now he is leading the highways and byways of Huddersfield. "I've never run a marathon before," Cliffe said. "I'm being sponsored on the basis that I get round."

Holly Bank School caters for 25 resident pupils and 12 day pupils and the move to a new building towards the end of next month will mean it can increase its capacity by 50 per cent.

"Some of the children are very bright intellectually but they're very disabled physically," Cliffe said.

Northern personalities, including Lord Wilson of Eversham, Jack Charlton and Bill Wilson, are sponsoring the appeal and Cliffe is equally well-organized in obtaining sponsorship.

It all seems a little daunting for a novice, who admits his greatest sporting achievement—representing the Huddersfield district as a schoolboy—is in the club and district.

"I think the marathon depends on how you approach it," Cliffe said. "A friend of mine set himself the target of 3½ hours. On day one he got carried away and tried to get under three hours. After 15 miles he blew up and didn't finish. I just want to

enjoy it as much as I can and get round."

And as for the marathon runner's greatest fear—the wall of pain, that point where the body tells the brain that it would much rather be at home with its feet up—Cliffe said he will not be a victim.

"So far the furthest I have run is 15 miles, but in the next month I will step up to 18 and more. So according to the schedule, the wall of pain comes next Sunday."

The *Times* and *Unisys*, the official ADT London Marathon computer service, hope that by



Graham Cliffe: Will encounter the pain barrier this weekend

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SQUASH RACKETS

Welsh accession is bedevilled by hint of uncertainty

By Colin McQuillan

Comprehensive wins by the London-based UTC Cannons and Lambis Club, both former champions, has made the lead enjoyed by Leszek Welsh Wizards in the Puma's Premier Squash League look rather less secure.

While the Wizards were resting on 69 points, after running their grand prix tournament at Cardiff last week, Cannons forced their way back into possible contention by defeating GT Superstars Abbeydale 3-0 at Sheffield to reach 62 points, with 14 points still attainable if similar results could be achieved against Lambis and Embassy Edgworth Priory.

Lambis, the defending champions, sacrificed any chance of retaining their title when Chris Dittmar, their Australian first string, unexpectedly returned home for several weeks. They still hold some of the keys to the championship, however.

With Dittmar back at the helm this week, Lambis dismissed Allsports Northern 3-0 in very short order. Similar performance in what has now become a significant London derby at Cannons Club on March 13, and against Wizards on March 20, could open the title door for Village Leisure.

Hotels, who have 66 points with one fixture against Abbeydale remaining.

The Cardiff squad returns to action, also against Abbeydale, on March 13 but even a comprehensive home win would guarantee them only a count-back should Cannons take enough points from their two remaining matches against Priory.

Cannons may call up the British champion, Del Harty, to strengthen them at second string in the squad to meet Lambis, which would bring him into conflict with Bryan Beeson, the English captain.

Dittmar would meet Ross Norman at first string but the crux of the match might turn around the third-string encounter between Chris Walker and Paul Carter and a fourth-string rubber between Jason Nicolle and Simon Parke.

RESULTS: Premier League. Cardiff 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

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GOLF

Woosnam is rested and ready to fulfil lifelong ambition

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Marbella

Ian Woosnam emerges from his hibernation at the Mediterranean Open on the Las Brisas course here today, with an eye on Augusta and the thought of following Nick Faldo as the Master golfer.

Woosnam is convinced that, on the eve of his 32nd birthday, the time has arrived for him to devote his not inconsiderable talent to winning a major championship.

The Welshman won more than £1 million in 1987, so securing his financial future, and has since then demonstrated his skills by winning the Volvo PGA Championship and finishing runner-up to Curtis Strange in the US Open.

What irritates Woosnam is the thought that, unlike his European Ryder Cup colleagues, Seve Ballesteros, Faldo, Bernhard Langer and Sandy Lyle, he could fail to earn a permanent place in the record books.

"I know in my heart that if I

Card of course

Year	Pos	Year	Pos
1981	388	1986	10
1982	421	1987	207
1983	376	1988	207
1984	376	1989	384
1985	173	1990	116
1986	344	1991	221
1987	344	1992	227
1988	344	1993	227
1989	344	1994	227
1990	344	1995	227
1991	344	1996	227
1992	344	1997	227
1993	344	1998	227
1994	344	1999	227
1995	344	2000	227
1996	344	2001	227
1997	344	2002	227
1998	344	2003	227
1999	344	2004	227
2000	344	2005	227
2001	344	2006	227
2002	344	2007	227
2003	344	2008	227
2004	344	2009	227
2005	344	2010	227

Out: 5,459 37 In: 5,205 35

Total yardage: 6,664

Par: 72

Championship at Wentworth.

Before that, he blamed a

disobedient putter for his

reversal against Curtis Strange

in the Ryder Cup.

"My putting has been so

poor for the last two years that

I have been giving the best

players in the world a one-shot

start each round," Woosnam

said. "You cannot do that and

expect to win major champion-

ships. I need to be

steadier on the greens, so I've

worked hard on a new putting

stroke."

Woosnam has avoided

starting his 1990 campaign

until now because his one

immediate objective is to be in

a positive frame of mind for

the Masters next month. He

will return home for the next

two weeks before playing in

Orlando and Houston immedi-

ately before Augusta.

With 10 of Europe's last

Ryder Cup team players here

— Ronan Rafferty and Faldo

are absent — Woosnam has

chosen well in terms of

examining his game, espe-

cially as the Las Brisas is a

conventionally good course.

defending champion, Bill

Glason, aged 29, of California,

are among others in the field.

Lyle went out today in the

penultimate starting group from

the tenth tee, in company with

David Frost, of South Africa,

and Chip Beck, who made a fine

Ryder Cup debut at The Belfry

last September. He won three

of his four matches and halved

the other with Tom Watson against

Seve Ballesteros and José María

Olazábal.

The course has suffered from

a year-long drought. There are

patches of water on some fair-

ways and the water levels of the

lakes which give the "Blue

Monster" its name are two feet

below normal.

All of the aforementioned are

here, together with a strong

contingent of Australians in

Greg Norman, Ian Baker-Finch,

Wayne Grady and Steve Elkington.

Mark Calcavecchia, Paul

Azinger, Ray Floyd and the

rest of the field.

The date of the second semi-

final in the Silk Cut Challenge

Cup, Saturday, March 31, has

been frustrated and irritated

the coaches of the competing clubs.

The Warrington coach, Brian

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His opposite number, the

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"The lads and the town are all

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Delay angers coaches

By Keith Macklin

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national hooker, Duane Mann, who is due to return to New Zealand by that date.

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VOLLEYBALL

England open title defence against Irish

By Keith Macklin

England, winners of the British men's championship last year, play the Republic of Ireland in their first match in this year's event at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, on March 30 and 31 (a Special Correspondent writes).

England's other group opponents are the British Students. The organizers have decided to keep England and Scotland apart and the Scots will face Northern Ireland and Wales in the other group.

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Driving ambition on an ice-bound track

Happiness achieved for proud Walker

By Sally Jones

Caroline Walker laughs triumphantly if a shade disbelievingly. After years of struggle and disappointment she has just begun to fulfil her long-held dream of becoming Britain's first female bobleigh driver in a sport notorious for its male chauvinism.

"I first saw bobleighing eight years ago, and I kept pestering until I was given a place as a passenger in a four-man bob at Winterberg in Germany," she said. "The sheer speed was terrifying and all the bends and loops seemed to be rushing at us like lightning, but the moment we'd got down I said to the driver 'Let's go again, and that was it' — I was hooked."

From that time she rode as a passenger several times, but despite impeccable credentials — she is the daughter of General Sir Antony Walker, chairman of the Army bobleigh association — Walker, aged 26, came up against a solid wall of male opposition each time she tried to make the tough transition to driving.

The bob has to negotiate winding courses, many with more than a dozen curves, S-bends and chicanes, often at speeds of up to 90 miles an hour. The slightest error or a bob wrongly positioned on a banked curve can shoot it straight off the track or leave it humping along upside down, so precision driving is vital. So, too, is power, as the start when the team sprouts flat out, pushing the bob to give it maximum momentum.

At five foot seven and 12 stone, Walker has the powerful build and athleticism required but still found it almost impossible to be taken seriously.

Luckily, she eventually enlisted as influential ally, Peter Brown, the British bobleigh team manager, who encouraged her to keep trying, and recently invited her to join a bobleigh drivers' training course at Igls, in Austria. "My family were amazed, as my job then was I'd land on my head so I'd see sense," she said. "I'd been training really hard for it though, doing weights, running and aerobics as well as working on a rowing machine, so I certainly wasn't going to give up, however terrified I felt."

"I did my first drive in a two-man bob from halfway down, and I was so nervous I kept thinking 'Do I really want to do this?'. But you can reverse your mind, and I somehow got down to the bottom in one piece. I was

incredibly chuffed."

Walker improved steadily throughout the week and soon started from the top of the run. Despite a few close calls, she got down safely each time.

"Caroline did very well because she was so keen to learn and soon got the hang of positioning the bob," her coach, Peter Brown, said. "It's difficult for the bobleigh hierarchy to accept women. There are too many male chauvinists around, and they perhaps see them as a threat to their cosy little club, but I think it's vital we get women involved."

"Because of the physical demands it will be difficult for them to compete on absolutely level terms with the top men, but I'm hoping to get two more women to come and train as drivers through the summer and

"We don't believe there is much in the way of drugs in motor sport but with the Sports



Breaking down the barriers: Walker takes a break from the curves and chicanes during a training session at Igls

held a women's event in October or November.

"Ideally, the sort of build we're looking for is someone like Judy Oakes (the shot putter) — very athletic with lots of power and capable of withstanding a few knocks. Caroline's almost perfect in terms of the build, but she's a bit small for the sport, so we hope to get her over."

In the meantime, Walker is searching for a sponsor to help with the £7,000 she will need to continue her training next season, fortified by her memories of her first attempt at driving.

"The speed and adrenaline of manoeuvring the bob as the S-bends and curves come flashing at you is something I can't describe. It's like being in a car, but you're not in a car, you're in a bob. It's just not what you can't wait to go again."

Apple Lane, on whom Karen Murphy replaced last year, touched 6-1 in the betting at one stage, but his price dropped to 100-30, which included wagers of £2,500-£500 and £3,333-£1,000.

But the gelding had no response to the finishing signal of the 10-1 chance Horatius, and was beaten 12 lengths.

Horatius was parted by trainer Jean Wonnacott's daughter-in-law, Claire Wonnacott, whose only previous success under Rules was in a bumper chase.

Amersham-based permit holder Jack Joseph, who cele-

brated his 71st birthday on Tuesday, was back in the party when Wonnacott's gelding, Eats had won the Aline Handicap Hurdle.

The 4-1 chance had the race in control soon after taking the lead on the run to the second-last fence, and kept strongly to score by 20 lengths from Rickstead Lad.

It was the third all-weather success at Lingfield for Joseph, who blamed the 29½-mile trip for Wonnacott's gelding's defeat at the track.

One person not smiling about the result was Ray Goldstein, who was laid up in bed with a cold and missed the winning ride. David Skyrme deputised.

Peter Scudamore's first ride in a bumper chase, the 15-8 favourite King William, beating only one of the nine finishers.

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RACING

Blundell conjures 100-1 coup before snow intervenes

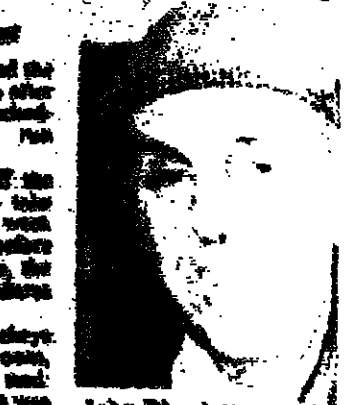
By Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent

A heavy fall of snow caused the abandonment of Wetherby after only three of the seven scheduled races had been run yesterday.

The decision to call off the only jumping meeting to take place so far in Britain this week was taken only minutes before the start of the fourth race, the Hoochier Panzer EBF Mares Only Novices Hurdle.

As

ell conjures
coup before
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John Blundell, 196-1 winner, up behind King Lancelot in the 1989-90 season. He was second in the 1989-90 season, having won three of his previous four races.

Excellent chance for Roll-A-Joint to regain winning ways

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)
Following encouraging runs at Warwick and Chepstow, where he was second on each occasion, Roll-A-Joint now has a decent chance of winning the Forth Gold Cup at Ludlow again today.

But what a difference a year makes for when he captured the trophy 12 months ago, he started at even money, having won three of his previous four races.

He was also destined to win his next three as well, the last being the Scottish National at Ayr.

This time his odds will be much more appealing because he has still to win this season, the principal reason being the inevitable rise in the handicap as the result of those gains.

But his last two races held out hope that he would be back in the winner's enclosure again before long.

While conceding that today's distance is arguably shorter than his best, this still looks an ideal occasion to prove the point.

At Warwick, Roll-A-Joint ran a sound race to split Woodgate and Over The Road.

Interestingly, those same two horses were directly behind him, but in the reverse order, at Chepstow where he was runner-up to Sandcliffe Boy in the recent Grand National trial.

Had North Lane not thrown the race away with a mistake two out, Roll-A-Joint would in fact have finished only third. But even that would have been honourable in the circumstances.

On his Warwick form Roll-A-Joint has the beating of Outside Edge and Memberson, who finished fourth and sixth respectively.

Since Warleggan has not raced for 15 months, Uncle Merlin, Weirpool and Rich Remorse, winners all last time, could constitute the hard core of Roll-A-Joint's competition this time.



Roll-A-Joint: fancied to defy top weight at Ludlow

Uncle Merlin, who won the Maryland Hunt Cup in the United States last year, is being trained for the Grand National by Tim Forster.

The Lecombe Bassett trainer is hopeful that Celtic Walk will also give a good account of himself this afternoon in the Bromfield Novices Chase.

But as he would have finished only a remote third at Chepstow last time had Formula One not knuckled over on landing over the last fence, I much prefer to go nap on Romany King, who looked as though he was ready for this distance when winning a similar but shorter event at Fontwell Park 10 days ago.

Interesting, the time of his race that day was virtually the same as Diaphantine's, yet he was carrying 18lb more.

Before that, Romany King had been a credible second at Warwick to Party Politics, who gave the form further

By George Rae
Betting turnover in Britain has reached unprecedented heights. During the past two years turnover on horse racing has risen by some 25 per cent to a total of £1.1 billion, an increase fuelled largely by the implementation of the Satellite Information Services (SIS) programme.

Although the bookmakers may be seen as the major beneficiaries of the growth, it has also opened the flow of funds to the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

At the board's annual press conference in London yesterday, it announced a projected income for the current financial year of £36.5 million, £2 million more than last year's £34.5 million.

In its statement of expenditure, the board described its intention to give £32 million in loans to improving facilities on racecourses over the next three years, and an increase in its prize-money allocation by £2 million to £24 million. Prize-money has virtually doubled in the past three years, from £12.8 million in 1986.

The board's ability to release significant funds for redevelopment is based on racecourses commanding more revenue in their own right. The SIS payments to racecourses, in many instances coupled with a more aggressive marketing strategy, has led to the board receiving £21 million in repayments, which can then be recycled as new loans.

"It is particularly pleasing to see courses improving facilities," Sir Ian Throckmorton, the Levy Board chairman, said yesterday. "When I first joined the board in 1982, the total loans were only three quarters of a million. But even now the £32 million is insufficient. We have applications for loans totalling £40 million."

In its notes on the distribution of prize-money, the board added that it is to ask the Jockey Club

to re-examine the question of expensing support for the leading two-year-old races.

"We were specifically asked to support these races two years ago," Sir Ian said. "But in the light of widespread comment on the level of competition they have attracted, we would like to be sure the Jockey Club is satisfied with the existing system. If they are then we will be happy to go along with that."

The board also committed £1 million to Racing Welfare in interest-free loans for the provision of accommodation for stable staff.

It was Sir Ian's last annual conference as chairman of the Levy Board. He retires in December, but a successor has not yet been named. He can feel satisfied that he is in effect going out on a winner.

Although the figures paint a picture of glowing health, it is highly unlikely that the spectacular growth can be maintained. The introduction of the SIS service must be viewed as a once-only boost to the sport, and the chronic shortage of revenue needs to be seen against the background of a buoyant economy. The financial indicators suggest that stricter times are at hand and racing will not be immune from their effects.

LUDLOW Selections

By Mandarin

1.25 White River.
1.55 Drovers.
2.25 ROMANY KING (nap).
2.55 Keep Straight.

3.25 Roll-A-Joint.
3.55 Swift Western.
4.25 Brockhill Boy.
4.55 Captain Abah.

By Michael Seely
1.55 MAYORAN (nap). 2.25 Celtic Walk. 3.55 Hoping For Glory.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.25 SIEGERIN.
Brian Beel's selection: 4.25 Sunday Changers.

Going: good to soft

1.25 BORDER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (Div 1: 1,800: 2m) (12 runners)

1. 1.25 BEL NORMAL 320 (H) (H) Mrs J Evans 5-11-3 P Harty (3) 57
2. 1.25 CALAMANDRA 347 (H) (H) Mrs J Evans 5-11-3 P Harty (3) 57
3. 1.25 KING OF ARAGON 34 (H) (H) R Brotherton 5-11-3 S Woods (3) 57
4. 1.25 WARWICK 34 (H) (H) P Palmer 5-11-3 S Woods (3) 57
5. 1.25 HATAHA 16 (H) (H) (H) E Jones 5-11-3 M Wyles (3) 57
6. 1.25 WILLY PERCEPTIVE 42 (H) (H) M Wyles (3) 57
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2. 3.25 WARWICK 34 (H) (H) P Palmer 5-11-3 S Woods (3) 57
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YACHTING

Martela is talk of town as further finishers drift in

From Barry Pickthall, Punta del Este, Uruguay

As the Italian yacht, *Gatorade*, and the Swedish *Card*, the Swedish *Card* lost her mizzen mast shortly after the start, took seventh and eighth places yesterday, at the end of the fourth stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race, the talk here continued to centre on the lucky escape of the 16 crew from the capsized Finnish entry, *Martela* OF.

"We just have to thank the gods that the weather was good throughout," Pierre Fehlmann, skipper of the Swiss entry, *Merit*, said. His vessel plucked 10 of the crew off the overturned Finnish yacht.

Ludde Ingvall, the skipper of UBF Finland, who coordinated the communications and search, was as adamant. "We were lucky they were broadcasting at the exact time the keel fell off and lucky it did not occur during the storm off the Falklands, when we were all busy trying to save our own skins."

Everyone here agrees that

the 4½-hour rescue could not have been handled more efficiently or professionally by the competitors and race organizers. The emergency, however, has also highlighted several deficiencies. The most serious is the non-operation of *Martela*'s two EPIRB emergency beacons.

The crew also reported that of the four six-man life rafts stowed on deck, only one surfaced when the yacht inverted. One became trapped in the sails, and two others remained under the boat.

According to Cdr Ian Bailey Wilnot, a leading member of the Royal Naval Sailing Association's race organization, three out of the nine emergency beacons that have gone over the side during this race have not worked. In addition, two others, fitted to *Steinlager 2* and *Satquote* British Defender, have activated themselves for no apparent reason.

Just as worrying, the EPIRB mounted in the cockpit of the

leading British entry, *Rothmans*, turned itself on several times during the last leg but, it transpired yesterday, none of the signals was picked up by the rescue authorities. The equipment will now be checked before the restart on March 17.

The emergency also exposed serious deficiencies within the Argentine search and rescue authorities. Considerable confusion was created when Argentine officials reported to the Whitbread race control centre at Punta del Este that a Search and Rescue helicopter had been scrambled, and later, was airborne.

Race officials were also told that an Argentine fishing boat was first on the scene, and had picked up *Martela*'s crew. However, none of these statements proved to be correct.

Last night, Tracy Edwards's all-woman team appeared to have plugged a serious leak which developed in its British yacht, *Maiden*. Edwards reported yesterday that the yacht was taking in 60 gallons of water every two hours, but later told Ego and Law, the duty yacht, that all was now well on board.

LEADING FINISHERS: Fourth leg (Punta del Este to Punta del Este, 200 miles) 1. *Merit* (Swiss), 22:15:33; 2. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 3. *Gatorade* (Italian), 22:20:04; 4. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 5. *Merit* (Swiss), 22:20:04; 6. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 7. *Gatorade* (Italian), 22:20:04; 8. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 9. *Merit* (Swiss), 22:20:04; 10. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 11. *Gatorade* (Italian), 22:20:04; 12. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 13. *Merit* (Swiss), 22:20:04; 14. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 15. *Gatorade* (Italian), 22:20:04; 16. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 17. *Merit* (Swiss), 22:20:04; 18. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 19. *Gatorade* (Italian), 22:20:04; 20. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 21. *Merit* (Swiss), 22:20:04; 22. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 23. *Gatorade* (Italian), 22:20:04; 24. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 25. *Merit* (Swiss), 22:20:04; 26. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 27. *Gatorade* (Italian), 22:20:04; 28. *Card* (Swedish), 22:20:04; 29. *Merit* (Swiss), 22:20:04; 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England trapped in a Caribbean swamp

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Kingston, Jamaica

The weather, which has consistently refused to extricate England from many a Caribbean calamity in the past, has turned nasty yesterday as if in huffy disapproval of the threatened sensation.

Sabina Park was a swamp at the scheduled restart time in this first Test, and the England players, two quick wickets and a handful of runs from one of the greatest upsets in recent cricket history, loitered instead in their hotel, impatient for news and fearful of the ultimate sporting injustice.

Lingering reluctantly late over breakfast, casting baleful glances at the clouds still congregating mockingly, the bulk of the squad was then taken for some distracting exercises on the hotel tennis court while Graham Gooch and Allan Lamb headed for the ground to inspect the damage and encourage the salvage job.

Their consolation as the ground began to recover from 24 hours of heavy, showery and unseasonable rain, was that their remarkable efforts already had left them two days, rather than just this one,

to finish the job.

The sombre mood of every-one English was immeasurably darkened by the news from home of Colin Milburn's tragic death. "Ollie" was so much more than a former player with a sad story; he lived for cricket and, in this momentous week, how cruel that he could not live long enough to salute and celebrate, in his own special way, a famous England win.

Suddenly, then, a week which had defied logic, excitement and bewilderment with equal facility, had gone awry. By lunchtime, the ground staff was spread languidly around the outfield with rakes, gathering piles of loose, muddy grass. Puddles still littered the field. The critical area was only four feet behind the crease at one end, where the hopelessly inadequate tarpaulin covers had leaked.

This patch had taken enough water seriously to endanger a bowler in his run-up and, whether caused by neglect or misfortune, it was bad enough, if transferred to an English ground, to have had Dickie Bird fretting theatrically for several hours before abandoning play for the day.

As the umpires ruled that no play was possible before tea,

Harare — Ted Dexter, the chairman of the England committee, sent a goodwill message to Peter Lush, the England Test team manager in Kingston, from here in Zimbabwe yesterday (Richard Streeton writes). It read: "Only barest details filtering through from Jamaica. Understand things going reasonably well for Gooch/Stewart combat. A team upset that their thunder is being stolen but send grudging good wishes nevertheless. Best of luck for successful conclusion." It was signed by the members of the England A team party.

Gooch remained impressively phlegmatic. "When you have played for 15 years you learn to accept the weather as an opponent in every game," he said. "We just have to be patient and grateful that time is still on our side."

Sabina Park was virtually deserted, English tourists outnumbering locals. Although this was Ash Wednesday, a public holiday in Jamaica, there may have been just as few here in perfect weather. The West Indian attitude, reflected by their cricket press, is that this game has been irretrievably lost and must be regarded as an aberration, surely to be redeemed within weeks.

Jamaica, however, was also distressed by Milburn's untimely death. They love characters here, and characters came no more vivid than Colin. I knew him well only in his later years when, despite the misfortune which blighted a potentially memorable career, he had retained an abiding enthusiasm for the game which he never failed to transmit.

The first Test match I ever saw, a twelfth birthday present from parents who never shared but cheerfully suffered my sporting passion, was in 1966 at Lord's — England against West Indies. I joined the queue which snaked down from north turnstiles and, then, like a child set loose in a sweet shop, sat on the boundary's edge among friendly, laughing West Indians who, like me, learned to love Milburn. To my young eyes, he was not the shape to be part of all this, but he made runs and he became, on that unforgettable day, a hero.

Obituary — 14
More cricket — 12

Gooch, yesterday, had a similar story to tell. "I was taken to the Oval for the 1968 Test against Australia," he said. "I had never seen a Test before but, above all else, I remember watching 'Ollie' bat. Five years later, when he tried to make a comeback after his eye accident, I played against him in a Sunday league match. He was a shadow of the great player he had been but he was still the same character."

Micky Stewart recalled Milburn as "a knowledgeable student of the game, one who had a great recall of events because he was genuinely a cricket lover, not just a cricket player." Lamb and Wayne Larkins were visibly stunned by the demise of a man who, for years, was never far from their home ground at Northampton. All of us here, on this mournful morning, felt we had lost a friend.

SCORERS: West Indies 184 (A R C Pinner 5 for 20 and 228 for 8 (C A Best 64 D E Mendenhall 4 for 71); England 384 (A J Lamb 132; R A Smith 57; C A Walsh 5 for 68).



Mud mark: Viv Richards, the West Indies captain, cheerfully contemplates a soaked Sabina Park outfield yesterday

Weightlifters get life ban for taking drugs

By John Goodbody

Ricky Chaplin and Gareth Hives, the Welsh weightlifters who were found positive for hormone drugs at the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand, have been banned for life from the sport by the British Amateur Weight Lifters' Association (BAWLA).

The decision was taken at a meeting of the central council in London last Saturday and will be announced tomorrow. Chaplin Hives have the right of appeal.

The Times can also disclose the names of the two British powerlifters who were positive in the first samples at the world championships in Canada three months ago. They are Neil Hurst, from Andover, who was second in the under 125kg category, and Peter Tregloan, from Southampton, who was third in the super-heavyweight (over 125kg) division.

The BAWLA will have to ban both these competitors for life if the second sample is found positive for drugs, whose type has yet to be revealed. At least one of the competitors has asked for a second sample to be analyzed at the Montreal Laboratory, which is accredited by the International Olympic Committee and run by Dr Robert Dugal, one of the most respected figures in the world of scientific analysis of drugs in sport.

The decision on Chaplin and Hives comes as Senator John Black, who has conducted a massive inquiry into drug-taking in Australian sport, has investigated the

levels of the hormone drugs in the competitors' urine at the Commonwealth Games. The testing in Auckland was carried out at the laboratory, funded by the Australian Government, in Sydney.

Black said: "The levels were so high that I have written to the Games organizers in New Zealand to discover their date of entry to the country. It seems as if they were taking the drugs close to the Games, which means that either they may have bought the drugs out in New Zealand or smuggled them into the country." Chaplin, who won a gold medal, and Hives, who took three silver medals, returned home immediately after their positive tests were announced in Auckland. Chaplin was found to have an unacceptable level of testosterone and Hives was found positive for stanozolol, the same anabolic steroid that was found in the urine of Ben Johnson at the 1988 Olympic Games.

Both Hurst and Tregloan won British titles this year and Hurst competed at the 1988 world championships in Perth, Western Australia. Neither was available for comment last night.

Last year six British powerlifters were given life bans after testing positive and Steve Pincent, a 1982 Commonwealth weightlifting champion, was jailed in November for supplying hormone drugs and another Commonwealth champion, Dean Willey, was dropped from the England team for testing positive.

Brabham survival hopes are fading

By a Special Correspondent

While desperate last-minute efforts were being made to keep the Brabham Formula One team afloat yesterday, chief designer Sergio Rinland, left abruptly to join the Tyrrell organization.

This move suggests that hopes of Brabham's taking part in the season's first grand prix in Phoenix a week on Sunday are now slim indeed. If no buyer can be found before the cars are due to be flown to Arizona at the weekend, then the chances of a later Brabham appearance in the grand prix series seem extremely remote.

It would end a distinguished grand prix history, which began way back in 1962. It would mean no drive for Stefano Modena and Gregor Foitek, while the 82-strong workforce at the team's Chesham headquarters would face a difficult future.

Yet a rescue package had been organized by Peter Windsor, a former journalist now with Ferrari, who has a claim to 20 per cent of Motor Racing Developments Limited, the Brabham owner.

I understand he had worked for many weeks in an effort to find a buyer for the beleaguered team. Middlebridge, a large Japanese corporation, was keen to buy and this had Windsor's complete approval. "They wanted to buy Brabham and sponsor the team," Windsor said yesterday.

A price was agreed and a contract drawn up, but the liquidator of Kingside Establishment, the majority shareholder of MRD, apparently changed his mind and said he did not want to sell to Middlebridge.

"I was mystified and shocked," Windsor said. "The rescue package would cer-

tainly have enabled the team to race with a full budget for the season. If they do not continue, it will be very sad."

If Brabham do not go to Phoenix, this would have repercussions on the timetable. The original entry list was 35, but if this drops to 34 or less, then the pre-qualifying session during an hour on the Friday morning will be scrapped, to the relief of several lowly teams.

The future of another British-based team, Onyx, is also the subject of speculation. They too are looking for a buyer, but indications last night were that their situation may be resolved before the weekend, and certainly the Onyx cars, due to be driven by Stefan Johansson and J.J. Lehto, are being prepared for air freight on Saturday.

As if these problems were not enough, two drivers, Alex Caffi and Emanuele Pirro, will miss the Phoenix race and the following grand prix in Brazil a fortnight later.

Caffi, No. 2 in the Footwork Arrows team, has broken his left shoulder blade, it is said through falling off a mountain training bike, and will be out of action for several weeks.

Dallara driver, Pirro, is out of action with what is thought to be hepatitis and his place in Phoenix will be taken by Giovanni Morbidelli, winner of last year's Italian Formula 3 championship, and a test driver for Ferrari.

SAO PAULO: The safety inspector of the International Auto Sports Federation, Roland Bruynseraede, yesterday approved the Jose Carlos Pace raceway as the site of the Brazilian Grand Prix, for the first time since 1980 (AP reports).

Bookmakers caught napping

By Nick Stewart

English bookmakers have been as surprised as anyone else by the extraordinary events which have taken place at Sabina Park during the first Test match. While their Jamaican counterparts did flourishing business on horse-racing at Kempton Park, the domestic contest was considered by locals as a non-betting item, and they declined to open a book.

The Victor Chandler organization here might wish it had followed suit. One intrepid backer placed £1,000 at 20-1 on England to achieve the unthinkable by winning the opening Test, which should give him some funds to fly out to the Caribbean.

Meanwhile, in Barking, a huge collective sigh of relief should be audible if England win, for Corals will no longer face paying out £70,000 for a West Indies "blackwash." Their quoted odds of 5-1 had been snapped up by the speed of a Devon Malcolm Yorker.

The leading firms varied between offering 25-1 and 40-1 on England's chances of winning the series. The best price available today is now with Surrey Racing at 3-1. Their chairman, Mervyn Wilson, remains sceptical.

"Personally, I am inclined to view this as a one-off, wonderful though it may be," Wilson said. "People have reported that Marshall and Richards are not the force of old, but I still make the home team odds-on favourites to win the series at 8-11."

Wilson's firm's prices for win, for Corals will no longer face paying out £70,000 for a West Indies "blackwash." Their quoted odds of 5-1 had been snapped up by the speed of a Devon Malcolm Yorker.

The second Test, to be played in Guyana, traditionally a batsman's wicket and the scene of many a high-scoring draw, offer tempting value with England 100-30, West Indies 8-11, and a draw at 9-4. The draw at 9-4 with Surrey Racing, covered with England to win at 4-1, available with Corals, looks handsome value.

LATEST ODDS: Victor Chandler: England to win series, 5-2; drawn series, 2-1; West Indies to win series, 5-11; Corals: 2-1; 5-11; Surrey Racing: 3-1; 5-1; 8-11; William Hill: 5-2; 100-30; 4-4.

Tim Curtis, who opened for England in three Test matches last season, is to be the Worcestershire vice-captain. It is the first time in four seasons the county champions have appointed an official deputy to their captain, Phil Neale, and Curtis was nominated ahead of Ian Botham.

England found themselves, a long way ahead on points and with rain the only hope for the usually beleaguered West Indies team. The home side will be consulting Michael Holding's commentary box rain-dance — I am sure there will be somebody in their dressing-room with suitable portable stereo equipment to provide the motive force.

As for our own merry band, they have, of course, already had a couple of rain stopped play nets in Trinidad, and the good news for those of them without the inclination to pot-

ish off a Times crossword, or almost certainly without a copy of *The Times* anyway, is that the dressing room at Sabina Park are big enough to push a couple of chairs out of the way to enable these times for little called upon in the middle to organize an impromptu indoor net, but hope-fully using a tennis ball instead of the genuine article. You will, no doubt, be staggered to hear that I have employed this tactic myself on previous visits.

There would surely be a pack of cards somewhere in evidence later in the day, but at least for the morning the major part of the squad was able to join the Laurie Brown fitness clinic at the hotel, without having to endure the general tedium shared by all at the supposed scene of the action.

It does not seem to matter where in the world that a cricket ground is under water, the torpor that follows is almost automatic.

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Olympic Games will be streamlined

Rome (AP) — The structure of the Olympic Games is to undergo radical alteration with the introduction of quotas for competitors and changes to the schedule of events. Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, said here yesterday.

After a two-day meeting with officials from the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and from the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), Samaranch said: "We are happy to say we have reached agreements on all the issues on our agenda."

He said: "Profound revisions are required for the Olympics. We are aware that some sports on the programme no longer deserve full participation while others have grown and qualify for a greater presence."

Samaranch said it would be "difficult to revise and eliminate certain events" but added that this was necessary for the Games to promote interest and to trim participation to no more than 10,000 competitors. "We can expect more than 15,000 athletes, officials and coaches in Barcelona in 1992," Samaranch, who comes from the Spanish city, said. "The Olympic village has room for no more than 15,500 people so we will have to introduce quotas."

A commission with nine members, including the heads of the three international organizations — Samaranch for the IOC, Primo Nebiolo for the ASOIF and Mario Vazquez Rana for the ANOC — will meet in Barcelona on March 31 to set the criteria for participation.

Samaranch stressed an agreement had been reached in Rome to consider the universality of competition, with a minimum of six competitors and two officials per country, and then the quality of the events, to include all elite athletes. He said a decision on the

quotas was important for future games. "It is impossible for anyone to do a good job in organizing a sports event with more than 10,000 athletes and 5,000 officials," he said.

Samaranch said the IOC was satisfied with the innovations introduced by the International Boxing Federation — new gloves, safer protective helmets and five rounds of two minutes — and did not foresee the sport being dropped.

He stressed that South Africa was strictly "an African problem, and the solution has to come from Africa" after the total dissolution of apartheid.

SPORT IN BRIEF

League is put back

The launch of Europe's International League of American Football has been postponed until 1991.

London Lightning, based at Stamford Bridge, and Birmingham Bears, based at Villa Park, are among the six teams from five countries affected by the delay, which the ILAF blames on "logistical snags".

Left out

David Hannah and David McIlroy have been dropped from Scotland's table tennis team for the European championships in April for objecting to the omission from the side of John Broc.

Cairns out

Chris Cairns, aged 19, the cricketer, will be unavailable either for New Zealand's tour of England or for Nottinghamshire this summer because of a stress fracture of the back.

Chosen man

Alex Dickson, the former British lightweight boxing champion, has been nominated to challenge Salvatore Nardino for the WBC international lightweight title on April 28 in Rome.

Off green

Steve Rees has been left out of the Welsh team to compete in the home international bowls series at Prestwick from April 2 to 6.

No games

New York (Agencies) — Adhering to a rule requiring 10 days between the reporting date and the first games, major-league baseball teams began cancelling spring-training exhibitions yesterday. Players have been locked out for two weeks in the absence of a basic labour agreement.

Unlikely win

Julie Salmon, from Sussex, was beaten by Kay Hand, a player 265 places below her in the world rankings, in the LTA women's satellite tennis tournament in Wigan yesterday.

Egypt safe

Egypt are unlikely to lose their place in the World Cup finals this summer despite Algeria's demand that Egypt be suspended from international competition for two years. The Algerians are upset because the Egyptians withdrew late in the day from the African Nations Cup which starts in Algeria tomorrow.

Manchester mourn Penny

By Nicholas Harling

Tony Penny, the basketball forward, who collapsed and died while playing for Manchester Giants on Tuesday, had a heart condition that had prevented him from playing for two years during his studies in the United States.

As Manchester mourned the death of one of their most popular players yesterday, it became clear that Penny, aged 24, the younger brother of the club's captain, Kevin, had in 1986 complained of chest pains, brought on, he assumed, by weightlifting. The 6ft 7in former England junior was told, following tests by a number of doctors, that he had Hyper Tropic Cardio Myopathy, a thickening of one of the walls in the heart.

According to David Rybczyk, the assistant basketball coach at Central Connecticut State University, Penny was so determined to carry on playing that he went to extreme lengths to prove that he was in prime condition. "He was referred to a

local cardiologist and subsequent to that he sought many expert opinions," Rybczyk said. "He was a vibrant young man and basketball meant so much to him. He had sacrificed a lot to come here and play."

Birmingham-born Penny stayed at Connecticut until he gained a bachelor's degree in communications and then he returned to England to play for Manchester at the beginning of this season... with tragic consequences. "He was one of the most outstanding young men I've ever been associated with," Rybczyk said. "He was a very special person."

Penny's death, eight minutes into the Carlsberg League game against the leaders, Kingston — after he had just been replaced — might force the clubs' management boards to impose a policy requiring all clubs to have doctors attending major matches. Repeated loudspeaker calls for a

doctor went out to no avail on Tuesday while Penny was treated by St John Ambulance men.

"There is no policy about having doctors present at games but clubs will probably talk about it now at their next meeting, which is on Sunday," Carmel Gurling, a spokesperson for the Carlsberg League, said.

"Manchester are better than most in that they do have St John Ambulance men at most games but at the moment they are not forced to."

Nigel Roden, the Manchester director, said: "Tony was a gentleman and one of the most pleasant young men in the game." Bracknell Tigers have agreed to call off their League home fixture against Manchester on Saturday as a mark of respect for Penny. No new date for the fixture, or for the Giants v Kingston game, has been announced.

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